

Jim and Becky Part II – Chapter 15 – Setting the Scene

Lt. Gen. Russel L. Honoré told CNN the task of removing people against their will was a law enforcement job and his troops would not be involved. He said that the military would continue to deliver food and water to the survivors still in the city.

“Get out of your house, there is E. Coli in that water.”

“That’s ok, I’m not in the water.”

“Nevertheless, you have to evacuate.”

“And go where?”

“Into a shelter with the other sick people.”

Cast:

John* and Glenda Young

Ted and Sally Baker

Jim Young, Rebecca and James, Rebecca and John

Jeb Young, Mandy and David and Paul

Jim and Hazel Robins

Royce Benson, Susan and Jack and Janice

Abel Cain, Sarah, Ramona, Sheila and Elizabeth

Gene Knowles, Marilyn and Jake, Bob and David

Lance James, Janet and Geena and Tom

Owen Smith, Constance and Carla and Megan

Joe and Jenna* Mason. Marjorie Benson and Adam and Remy

Michael, Mike or Gunny Cole, Jolene. Grown children Michael, Stacy and Erika

Jacob ‘Jake’ Emory, Linda and Stephanie

Lt./Capt. Ron Matthews, Susan and Ron and Dana

15 other unidentified families

*Deceased

In the first 14 chapters, the US had taken a strike from the People’s Republic of China and then experienced a series of terrorist events. In response to the terrorists, FEMA had gotten heavy handed and identified all Americans, about 230 million people, by injecting an AVID chip, originally designed to identify animals, under the guise of an immunization program. Bad things always happen in three’s. From one perspective, the cast has experienced their 3 disasters. If one were to believe that, another disaster would trigger a sequence of 6 more because under the rule of three’s, you have 3 raised to a power, e.g., 0, 3, 9, 27...

Jim and Becky owned John's farm south of exit 2 on I-80 in Nevada. Gene and Marilyn bought Ted's farm, which was right at the Nevada state line and located half in Nevada and half in California. In the aftermath of the two disasters, Jim and Gene built a thriving food business, growing 20 acres of garden produce and eventually 120 acres of dry beans each year. Sixteen of the residents had taken a road trip and killed a couple of dozen FEMA agents while supposedly on a buying trip to Colorado. Their attacks on FEMA had ended abruptly but a seed had been sown and FEMA was forced by public reaction to stop enforcing the extensive identity checks.

Some 16 months later on Labor Day the story resumes. Joe and Marjorie are engaged and waiting for the third year to pass before Jenna, Joe's first wife is declared missing and presumed dead. Older brother Jeb has moved to the farm together with his in-laws, Jim and Hazel Robins. Gene has reopened a factory food outlet in Reno and runs it with about a third of the families on the two farms. The other individuals work for Jim on one or the other of the farms and they both grow and process food products. Jeb handles the operations on the home place and Jim handles the operations on Gene's farm. The product lines the business carries are Two Farms brand and limited:

- 1½-pound whole wheat bread, Standard sliced
- 1½-pound whole wheat bread, Squaw unsliced
- 5-pound bags of: rolled oats, ground wheat, corn, and oats
- 5-pound bags of brown and white rice
- 1-pound bags of coffee beans, whole
- 1-pound blocks of cheese: mild Cheddar, Mozzarella and Romano
- 5-pound bags of pasta, 20 varieties (shapes)
- 1-quart jars of Spaghetti sauce
- 1-quart jars of canned vegetables
- 10-pound bags of potatoes and 3 pound bags of onions
- 5-pound bags of: dark red kidney, pinto, paquito, great northern and navy beans
- 1-pint jars of honey
- 1-pint bottles of cough syrup, mostly alcohol

Seasonal fresh produce including: potatoes, tomatoes, onions, peppers, green beans, sweet corn, chilies, garlic, beets, carrots, squash, pumpkins, watermelon, lettuce and herbs. They also have a canning operation for much of their garden produce. The bakery runs 2 shifts, producing about 740 loaves of bread daily, 5 days a week. The grain grinding operation runs 3 shifts and produces flour and ground grains, e.g., corn meal, ground and rolled oats, etc. Both brown and white rice are imported in bulk from California while the wheat and corn are now imported from Colorado. The bulk-roasted coffee is also imported from a California roaster and sold as whole bean coffee. Thirty dairy cows support the cheese making operation.

In terms of survival preparations, each farm has a shelter built from used 12' culvert. One is a main tube with four perpendicular tubes and the other in the form of a square with a midline of 60' per side. The shelters are beneath 12' of dirt. In the center of the shelter area, stands a 4-story water tower supplied from a new deep well. The towers

are encased in 2-layer blanket of Spectra Shield level five bulletproof materials and support a 2,100-gallon water tank on the 4th floor. The 3rd floor of each tower contains an Op Center in addition to a similar facility in each shelter. Each farm also sports a V-100 armored car equipped with .50 and .30 caliber machine guns and a fighting trench with removable steel plate bridges surrounds the living area. Finally, each farm has a 10,000-gallon propane tank with a 90% fill and underground 15,000-gallon diesel fuel and a 5,000-gallon gasoline tanks.

Washington was relocated temporarily to Atlanta, Georgia after the war with the Chinese and finally to the geographical center of the lower 48 after the terrorist attacks that destroyed Atlanta. New Washington is located 1 mile north and 1 mile west of Lebanon, Kansas; although to be accurate Lebanon is now a part of New Washington. Gas and diesel are in the general area of \$2 per gallon. The Congress and Supreme Court are new, the previous bodies having been killed in Atlanta.

Communications systems are extensive and include: SINCGARS and Spearheads, HF, VHF and UHF ham radios, 4 channel VHF business radios and Citizen Band radios and handhelds. In the interim, the intakes and exhausts for the underground generators have been re-plumbed and both the intake and exhausts are routed from the shelter and exit from the second floors of the buildings. The intakes are on one side and the exhausts on the other. The blast doors to each shelter have also been relocated to the first floor of the separate water towers. In addition, the shelters are connected to the basement of the two farmhouses by 6' high oval corrugated tubes with a second set of blast doors in the basements of the homes.

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Description

The Spearhead VHF tactical radio complements the ITT RT-1702 Export SINCGARS radio, a squad/platoon level component of the ITT Advanced Tactical Communications Systems (ATCS). With a tailored ancillary suite, the Spearhead can be outfitted in handheld or wearable roles/installations. The Spearhead has a multi-lingual display, a non-alpha menu driven keypad interface, and a rotary pre-set switch designed for ease of channel selection in combat conditions. Software programmable, the Spearhead radio is configurable to satisfy individual customer operational security via unique COM-SEC and TRANSEC coding. Spearhead operates in any combination of clear or encrypted, single channel or frequency-hopping voice or packet data modes. Spearhead supports SINCGARS and NATO squelch interoperability and STANAG 4292 hailing. The Spearhead radio fully complies with MIL-STD 810- and MIL-STD 461F.

Status

In July 2006, the US Defense Security Cooperation Agency notified Congress of a possible Foreign Military Sale (FMS) to Saudi Arabia to continue modernization of the Saudi Arabian National Guard (SANG). Included in this notification were 2,198 Spearhead

hand-held radios. In August 2008 ITT announced that it had been awarded a five-year Foreign Military Sales (FMS) contract by the US Army Communications Electronics Command (CECOM) that included the Spearhead radio. The five-year FMS contract contained an option for a sixth year and had a potential value of USD 490 million over the life of the contract. Spearhead is also reported to have been sold to an undisclosed African country. In 2010, the Spearhead radio was in full rate production and, as of November of that year, over 18,000 radios had been fielded to a number of customers. The Spearhead radio is also supplied by ITT's UK subsidiary, ITT Defence Ltd.

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Almost 4 years into the food operation, they had two small groups consisting of 15 families on Gene's farm and 16 families on Jim's farm. Jim mother, Glenda, lives with Jim and Becky and is the 16th family, a family of one. Although the story of Jenna's disappearance was never resolved, we know that Becky killed her, apparently in self-defense; however only Jim and Becky know that much. Her body is 6' under in Jim's garden and John's body rests beneath a California black oak tree near the rear of Jim's farm. Almost everyone living on the two farms is a military veteran and/or a retired or an active duty law enforcement officer in Reno and Washoe County.

In the aftermath of the previous disasters, some things in the US have changed besides the government becoming overbearing. Hurricane Katrina in July of 2005 started it and the subsequent disasters finished it. Americans are now into energy efficiency. Like the Hummer salesman said in September of 2005, *If a person can afford a Hummer, they don't care how much gasoline or diesel fuel costs.* At \$150 thousand a copy, very few people can afford H1 Alpha Hummers. The latest generation hybrid vehicles included Jim and Becky's pickups, hybrid diesel pickups easily capable of 100mpg in hybrid mode or 30+mpg in pure diesel mode. And the borders of the US are closed to everyone without a Visa and a biometric Passport.

As strenuously as people in the US objected to the AVID chips, few people removed them. The residents of the farms, to a person, had a second identity and a matching AVID chip that could be used replace the official chip in their left shoulders that matched their legitimate identities. Some things never change, and yet they do. Firearms aren't much different than they'd been for half a century, for example. Our time frame here is near the end of the first decade of the 21st Century. Gun Control is worse than ever before, perhaps because so many of the MP-5s favored by the FEMA Black Shirts are in wide circulation as are all manner of all of the politically incorrect weapons including NFA firearms, forbidden destructive devices and all of those inappropriate deer hunting weapons, .50 caliber rifles, suppressors, various types of grenades and those machine guns. I include all of the above details in case you haven't read part I of the story.

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"Mom did I speak a foreign language when I was 3½?"

"It's ok, Jim, in 3 or 4 years you won't be able to shut them up. Becky understands them; get her to translate if you can't figure out what they want."

"Coffee on?"

"Hey Gene, what new?"

"Thought I stop by and see if your mother made cinnamon rolls. We ought to touch bases to review the summer before the picnic this afternoon. Did Becky complete the accounting and divide the proceeds of our summer's efforts?"

"It worked out to \$7.50 an hour for every hour worked. It appears that the average person worked about 60 hours a week, including the teenagers and young adults. The average take home is about \$6,300. Not bad for 14 weeks of work, some families will be sharing \$31,500. We'll be paying all of the wages in gold, as usual, with most people getting 5¼ ounces of gold. (Under the new gold standard, the official price of gold is still \$1,200 per ounce.) When you consider that people don't pay any housing costs except utilities and all of the food is free, everyone is making out very well indeed."

"How does it work out for the people who work all year long?"

"Last year the average fulltime person earned at least \$20,000. But, you have to remember that gasoline and diesel fuel are less than \$2.00 a gallon and just about everyone has a hybrid vehicle now getting a minimum of 30mpg. Even for the people who work in Reno, no one consumes much fuel. We got smart when we bought the used school bus and provided transportation."

"I don't like the idea of our having as much gold and silver as we do in the lockboxes in the shelters. We've done nothing except accumulate precious metals since the war."

"We've done well, I'm on my 4th drawer of Eagles, Becky is on her second and each of the kids have about 120 Eagles apiece. They'll be able to buy any college in the country when they're ready to go to school in 15 years."

"Your mother must have a ton of gold."

"Surprisingly, she doesn't, Gene. Jim, Hazel and she got together and have been dividing their incomes equally among the 5 grandchildren. I don't know how much Jeb and Mandy put away for David and Paul, but our kids each have about 10 pounds of gold apiece. Of course, Ted started that when he gave each of our kids 44 Eagles apiece. Then Becky increased it to 72 each about 2 years ago."

"Is everything set for the Labor Day picnic?"

"Watermelons are in a tank with ice. We add 2 kegs of beer for the adults and sodas for youngsters. The hog has been roasting in that Luau pit since yesterday afternoon. I

think that all that is left is to set up the tables and string the volleyball net. What's our inventory of food like at the warehouse?"

"We've been producing more than we're selling. I'd estimate that there is perhaps as much as a 2-month supply of packaged food ready to sell. There are enough potatoes in the fruit cellars to last until next spring. Moving the coffee grinder to the warehouse was a brilliant idea; people grind their own and have fresher coffee as well as saving us the labor of grinding it ourselves. If we wanted to add a 3rd shift to the bakery, I have a couple of grocery chains that would buy the extra 400 loaves of bread."

"You'd have to talk to Mom; she's in charge of the bakery operation even though she no longer works in the bakery. Enough of the teens have graduated from high school this last spring that we could probably find the staff for a 3rd shift. We would divide the existing work groups into 3 shifts and fill the vacancies with the teens. When you renewed the contract for the wheat, what did you arrange?"

"The same 3 truckloads a week; 1 of durum and 2 of hard white. While I favor 3 shifts for some of the operations, I don't favor working on weekends. Sunday is our day of rest and we have to take time out to thank God for all he has bestowed on us on the farms. With everyone working in most of the families, they need Saturdays to catch up, clean and do laundry."

"And Sunday afternoons?"

"It's a good time to get in time on the range. Which reminds me, we need more ammo. We've about burned through all of the ammo I bought from Ammoman."

"Does he have any Aussie surplus?"

"His best price is on Lake City loose packed ammo, both in 5.56x45mm and 7.62x51mm. I talked to him and if we buy 2 pallets of each caliber, he'll pay the shipping and give us a discount."

"What about machine gun ammo, belted .30 and .50 caliber?"

"I spoke to Marjorie. She'll arrange a shipment that we can hijack."

"30 pieces of silver, again?"

"Right, as in 12 ounces of gold."

"I go halves with you on the ammo."

"I was going to ask. That will work out well. We ought to arrange a team event and put your best marksmen up against ours."

“What would we use for a prize?”

“I got my hands on a White Feather, complete with a Night Force 8.5-32x56mm Mil Dot scope, an AN/PVS-27 Magnum Night Vision Scope and a Harris bipod. Do you want to contribute some magazines and ammo?”

“I could do that, how about 22 20-round magazines, 7 3-magazine pouches, 8 500-round cases of Black Hills match grade and 2 500-round cases of Black Hills hunting ammo?”

“Add a Surefire suppressor for the rifle and you have a deal.”

“Consider it done. Where can I get one?”

“I sell them now.”

What Gene hadn't told Jim was that he'd secured a class III federal firearms dealer's license and Jim's contributions just about matched the price he paid for the rifle. The dealer's license also contributed to the price he'd negotiated with the Ammoman. Eric drop shipped the 4 pallets of ammo from the Lake City plant located at Independence, Missouri, reducing his freight.

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The same freight hauler was used by the Army to transfer the .30 caliber and .50 caliber belted ammo to Reno. The hijacking had an added benefit; Eric had to reshipe the stolen 5.56x45mm and 7.62x51mm ammo. He wasn't out anything, but the freight company's insurance carrier was. What does a person do with 4 pallets each of 5.56x45mm and 7.62x51mm ammo? Shoot of course, the first 124,000-rounds of each caliber of ammo were free. As a side note, Jeb won the shooting competition.

“Do you want your M1A back now that I have my own?”

“Not the standard model, but you could give back my White Feather. By the way, I have more magazines if you need them. Ammoman had a deal on magazines at 80 for \$880. I suppose that they're imported, but they're guaranteed. It wasn't really fair of you to use the M-25 in that competition, but we hadn't made up any rules. Have you been practicing?”

“A lot, Jim. I probably burned through 2,000-rounds of Black Hills match ammo to get to be able to shoot as well as I did. It might have been cheaper just to buy the rifle than win it. I paid \$365 per 500-round case.”

“You're full of it big brother the suppressor cost \$1,652. I figure that I spent about \$2,920 on the match ammo and another \$706 on the hunting ammo. Altogether, I spent

\$5,278 and I think that it was more than Gene spent on the rifle with the scope, night vision and bipod.”

“The rifle listed for \$4,648 and that included the bipod and scope mount but not the rings or the scope. Figure about \$1,360 for the Nightforce scope and \$40 more for the rings, a total of \$6,048. Gene had to pay at least 80% of that price or \$4,838. That makes my rifle worth \$10,000 plus. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.”

“With a \$10,000 rifle comes a responsibility.”

“What might that be?”

“You’re not allowed to miss.”

“Why would I miss?”

“Targets don’t shoot back.”

“The odds are that I’ll never have to fire that rifle in anger.”

“I don’t care if you’re angry or not, just as long as you don’t miss.”

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Nature was on a rampage that started just before the end of the 20th Century. You could blame the Hurricanes on global warming, but what did that have to do with earthquakes and tsunamis? California had experienced a major earthquake every 5-10 years for a very long time. Yellowstone was overdue to erupt in another super volcano. No one really had a timeline on the Long Valley caldera except that it had erupted 760,000 years ago. However, the tornado season in the Midwest had picked up even more during the first decade of the 21st Century; this too could be blamed on the global warming, it was another weather-related issue.

During the 20th Century, the US experienced 72 F-5 Tornadoes. There was some suggestion that the one that hit Moore, OK (Oklahoma City) was an F-6, but it was never confirmed. On May 15, 1968, 2 F-5s struck in Iowa, one in Oelwein and the other Charles City. Between the two cities, $5 + 13 = 18$ people died. As of 2005, the NWS had reported no F-5s in the US. Generally speaking Tornado Alley followed the Mississippi and Ohio rivers. A tornado is caused by a collision of warm and cold masses of air, wet warm air from the gulf and dry cold air coming down from Canada.

There are differences too in the national response to various types of disasters. Katrina got everyone upset and there were more fingers being pointed than they were people to point fingers at. The most often heard question was how would this reveal itself in a subsequent terrorist attack? I don’t know where you get your water, but my water doesn’t come radioactive. Perhaps the most serious hazard in New Orleans was the

presence of E. Coli bacteria in the water. Emptying the city into Lake Pontchartrain shouldn't have a negative impact on the lake, provided most of the contaminants were organic. How can one compare going into a city struck by a nuclear weapon with going into a flooded city? It's easy if you're a member of the Democrat Party, go figure.

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During the early fall they needed to harvest the deadfalls and standing dead trees for firewood. If there weren't enough, they'd wait until the sap was down and harvest live trees. With a huge supply of firewood already, all they were doing was replacing what they'd used over the course of the previous year. Apparently, the timber was being attacked by something, maybe a bark beetle. They marked the dead trees to fell and after cleaning up the deadfalls, proceeded to harvest all of the standing dead trees. By the time they finished, the wood supply would be more than doubled.

"How many bundles of firewood could we get out of 400 cords?"

"That's hard to say, it depends on the size of the bundle. If we made them 1 ft³ we'd get 128 per cord or over 50,000. Why?"

"I've had people asking for firewood at the warehouse."

"We'd need a shrink wrap machine, Gene. A 10"x11" bundle of firewood 16" long would be about 1 ft³. I think we could get by with a 12" shrink wrapper but I read an article and we'd be lucky to wrap a bundle a minute. That means we could only bundle about 4 cords a day per machine. There are enough dead trees that we could probably harvest 1,000-cords in addition to what we have at the moment. I'll have to tell you, this would be a major undertaking."

"On the other hand, Jim, it would tend to make the business a year round business. Get the crews busy harvesting and splitting, I'll order a couple of the shrink wrap machines and the 12" shrink wrap."

"Are we going to sell bulk wood too?"

"I wasn't planning on it, no. Just the things we can sell out of the warehouse."

At one cord per hour, they were bundling 8 cords a day or about 1,040 bundles of wood. It was labor intensive, but since profits were divided on the basis of time invested, they didn't have trouble getting plenty of help. On the weekends, even the school kids pitched in to help handle the firewood. One delivery truck would hold about one day's production of firewood bundles. It was a lucrative enterprise; the cost of a bundle of firewood was less than \$.50, counting fuel and packaging. The selling price was \$3.00. The best part of the entire process was the fact that they were removing dead trees from the forest, eliminating homes for the bark beetles and hopefully preserving the remainder. At \$3.00 per bundle, a cord of firewood was selling for \$384. They even

bagged the sawdust and sold it to several bars that used it to cover their floors. The proceeds were reinvested in additional equipment: saws, splitters and 2 more shrink wrap machines. It didn't take long; a truckload of firewood bundles was worth over \$3,000. And that went on 6 days a week all winter long. Nobody worked on Sunday; it was a well-enforced rule. There was Church to attend and weapons practice in the afternoon.

"We're going to run out of trees to harvest, now what?"

"Didn't I read somewhere that there were a lot of dead and dying trees in the area of the Long valley caldera?"

"I heard about that, something to do with the soil."

"I'll track down whoever I need to talk to. Maybe we could remove them and offer to replant on the condition that we could keep the wood we removed."

"And if they say no?"

"There have to be a lot of those bark beetle infestations; we'll make the forest service the same offer. We'll clear the area and replant in exchange for the wood, even if we have to pay something for the logs. The firewood is almost pure profit so we could afford it. There seem to be five species of trees involved: ponderosa pine, Jeffrey pine, digger pine, lodgepole pine, and sugar pine."

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All it took was a war and a terrorist attack to create the circumstances where 31 families came together into 2 groups and returned to the soil. They had security in their numbers and were well armed to boot. East in New Washington, politicians reemerged like a plague. In the 2-year period since the special election held to refill the vacant congressional seats, all of the rats surfaced and ran for office. They had golden tongues and knew just which buttons to push. They were easily elected and the federal government returned to normal; inefficient and corrupt.

New York Representative James Conklin introduced a bill in the House today. Aimed at reducing the lawlessness that continues in some parts of the country, the bill would roll all gun laws into a single set of federal gun regulations. In an effort to control assault weapons, all semi-automatic firearms would be banned, except for law enforcement and military. The National Rifle Association immediately protested, indicating that such a ban wouldn't affect criminals and would penalize law-abiding citizens.

I for one welcome this legislation; it shouldn't interfere with hunting or firearms sports. Who needs a semiautomatic weapon to kill a deer? This bill wouldn't affect most hunters who use bolt action and lever action rifles to hunt. Some states limit hunters to shotguns only and there are several fine over/under shotguns on the market. I disagree with

opponents to the bill who argue that about half of all hunting firearms are semiautomatic. As most people know, the majority of shotguns are pump action. This is Wolf Blitzer from New Washington. I'll be back after a word from our sponsors.

“Dammit. I can’t believe these people. Most handguns are semiautomatic these days. They’re targeting 15%-20% of all guns and probably 75% of the handguns.”

“We have a new Supreme Court; maybe they’ll get off their butts and oppose the legislation.”

“They did before with *Heller* and *McDonald*. Fat lot of good that did. DC and Chicago just changed their laws. Any court case to challenge the new law would take years and I doubt the government would wait to implement the law while it was being litigated.”

“I don’t get it; the 2nd Amendment clearly says that the people’s right to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.”

“What are we going to do?”

“For the moment, nothing; let’s wait and see if the law passes. If it does, someone will surely test it and then we’ll have to see if a court issues a stay order on implementing the law until the matter is adjudicated.”

“If they don’t?”

“We’ll see.”

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‘We’ll see’, weren’t Gene’s intentions. They had started a snowball rolling down the hill when they attacked FEMA over the ID chip issue. Once the snowball gathered a head of steam, the residents of the farms stepped back and let other Americans pressure the government into not enforcing the law. Neither of the farms could withstand a full on assault by local, state or federal authorities, their defenses were only intended to keep the bad guys at bay while the authorities responded. Never mind the fact that they had a semi load of ammo; .30 and .50 caliber firearms and 40mm grenades couldn’t really go up against armor.

Over the course of the winter, the Congress enacted the legislation and the President signed it into law. Suit was immediately brought to garner a stay order, but the courts declined. In the year of our Lord, 2010, 75 million Americans were up in arms, opposed to the legislation while a majority; 175 million weren’t, willing to give up any right just to feel secure. Security is an illusion, you can’t be secure when the government can come into your home and help themselves (USA PATRIOT Act) or evict you as in the case of New Orleans in 2005. Never mind if eventually the government’s action is found wanting, the damage has already been done. Did it surprise anyone that it was California

Highway Patrolmen who evicted the first people from their homes in New Orleans? There were a lot of lessons that Katrina taught the American public, but most people were too busy finger pointing and finding fault to learn those lessons. Then when the Chinese attacked, they suddenly realized that the analogies about terrorists setting off atomic bombs weren't appropriate because water only got dirty, not radioactive.

Here's what I mean:

1mT surface burst
Wind speed: 15 mph
Wind direction: due east
Time frame: 7 days

3,000 Rem
Distance: 30 miles
Much more than a lethal dose of radiation. Death can occur within hours of exposure. About 10 years will need to pass before levels of radioactivity in this area drop low enough to be considered safe, by US peacetime standards.

900 Rem
Distance: 90 miles
A lethal dose of radiation. Death occurs from two to fourteen days.

300 Rem
Distance: 160 miles
Causes extensive internal damage, including harm to nerve cells and the cells that line the digestive tract, and results in a loss of white blood cells. Temporary hair loss is another result.

90 Rem
Distance: 250 miles
Causes a temporary decrease in white blood cells, although there are no immediate harmful effects. Two to three years will need to pass before radioactivity levels in this area drop low enough to be considered safe, by US peacetime standards.

Radius of destructive circle: 1.7 miles
12 pounds per square inch

At the center lies a crater 200 feet deep and 1,000 feet in diameter. The rim of this crater is 1,000 feet wide and is composed of highly radioactive soil and debris. Nothing recognizable remains within about 3,200 feet (0.6 miles) from the center, except, perhaps, the remains of some buildings' foundations. At 1.7 miles, only some of the strongest buildings – those made of reinforced, poured concrete – are still standing. Ninety-eight percent of the population in this area is dead.

Radius: 2.7 miles

5 psi

Virtually everything is destroyed between the 12 and 5-psi rings. The walls of typical multi-story buildings, including apartment buildings, have been completely blown out. The bare, structural skeletons of more and more buildings rise above the debris as you approach the 5-psi ring. Single-family residences within this area have been completely blown away – only their foundations remain. Fifty percent of the population between the 12 and 5-psi rings are dead. Forty percent are injured.

Radius: 4.7 miles

2 psi

Any single-family residences that have not been completely destroyed are heavily damaged. The windows of office buildings have been blown away, as have some of their walls. The contents of these buildings' upper floors, including the people who were working there, are scattered on the street. A substantial amount of debris clutters the entire area. Five percent of the population between the 5 and 2-psi rings are dead. Forty-five percent are injured.

Radius: 7.4 miles

1 psi

Residences are moderately damaged. Commercial buildings have sustained minimal damage. Twenty-five percent of the population between the 2 and 1-psi rings are injured, mainly by flying glass and debris. Many others have been injured from thermal radiation – the heat generated by the blast. The remaining seventy-five percent are unhurt.

As I said, water doesn't get radioactive, just filthy. The figures given above are for a 1mT blast. E. Coli can kill you, but not as fast as blast of radiation. The comparison was therefore, illegitimate.

How much damage can a government do to a civilization? Ask the Romans, the fall and decline of the Roman Empire was a direct result of the failure of the Roman Emperors' to govern the population properly. At the end of the first decade of the 21st Century, the population of the United States of America all had embedded identity chips and a new law on the books aimed at disarming the population. This was exactly what Hitler had done in Germany during the 1930s.

This year will go down in history. For the first time, a civilized nation has full gun registration! Our streets will be safer, our police more efficient, and the world will follow our lead into the future. – Attributed to Adolf Hitler, 1935 – the Nuremberg Law's

Reporters and politician's had one thing in common; the only good one was one who had died. If you can't believe that, turn on one of the cable news channels and listen for a half hour, assuming you can last that long. The politicians are spouting their party's

line, whatever that is and the reporters are doing their part to stir the soup. If the Democrat's had been in office, Katrina would have been their fault. The local politicians are to blame this time in Louisiana because their Democrats, just ask any Republican. Rodney King had it right, "Can't we all just get along?"

As far as Jim and Becky were concerned, history was repeating itself. Having recovered from their beating at the hands of the public over the ID chips, Congress and the Executive branch was now starting trouble again, this time over the interpretation of the 2nd Amendment. Bill Clinton had tried that in 1994, but it hadn't really worked out, people just put their illegal arms under the bed or somewhere else. Then George W. Bush came along and got the USA PATRIOT Act enacted which eliminated more Constitutional rights. There wasn't 2¢ difference between the 2 major parties; they both wanted the same thing, power.

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"ATF, we're here to inspect your firearms."

"All we have is a bunch of single-shot shotguns, 12 and 20-gauge."

"We'll have to see them."

"They aren't semiautomatic."

"I'll be the judge of that."

"You have automatic weapons, what's the big deal?"

"We're law enforcement, it's legal."

"The 2nd Amendment says that we have the right to keep and bear arms."

"That's true, as far as it goes, but the law says which weapons you can legally own."

"Everyone here has a Winchester rifle, a 6-shot revolver and most have a single-shot or a pump shotgun. We don't have what you're looking for."

"That armored car has machinegun mounts. Where are the machineguns that go in the mounts?"

"We don't have any, inspect the vehicle yourself."

What the ATF didn't know about was the shelters; neither Jim nor Gene had pulled any building permits. The next person who gives you trouble over building permits, just remember, the government keep the records and the government isn't your friend. Having something called The Bill of Rights presupposes that the government will enforce those

rights, not take them away. Even public employees know enough to look in the building permit department to identify all the structures on your property where you might hide your illegal Browning automatic rifle or semiautomatic shotgun.

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The trouble didn't start in Reno or even in Nevada, it started in Little Rock. The ATF raided a place that both the ATF and the Secretary of State had a record of. The owner had several full-auto registered weapons and it was presumed that he had more semi-autos than full autos. Ronnie Carson was the owner of a hardware store. He sold guns and had a class III federal dealer's license. More than that, Ronnie was into full auto weapons, a holdover from his SEAL days in 'Nam. Ronnie was a weapons specialist and could dismantle and reassemble just about any arm used by any military organization in the world.

The new law totally outlawed possession of NFA firearms as well as semi autos, except for police and the military. Ronnie wasn't a fool; he had hidden his weapon collection in his shelter. How many garages do you know of that have basements? The difference being that Ronnie's basement lid was the floor to his garage and 18" thick. It had two entrances, one from the basement of his home where a section of car siding opened to reveal a blast door and a second under the wood box behind the garage. The basement lid was interlaced with wire mesh and rebar, adding strength and hopefully interfering with any ground penetrating radar. The tunnels were underneath shrubbery beds to prevent anyone from directly scanning the ground.

When the feds showed up with a list of his weapons, Ronnie gave them a copy of the police report where he had reported them stolen; a day after the new law was passed. Ronnie had already returned all semi auto weapons he sold in the hardware store to the manufacturers. The only weapons in his possession that weren't permitted under the law were the full auto weapons he sold only to police officers from the upstairs showroom of his hardware store. He produced his weapons log and everything was in order. Nevertheless, smarting from what they presumed to be an outlaw hiding his personal weapons, the ATF seized Ronnie's class III inventory.

DECLARATION OF JOHN M. APPLETON

I, John M. Appleton, make the following declaration pursuant to 28 USC § 1746.

1. I have been a federally licensed firearms dealer and a special occupational taxpayer under the National Firearms Act of 1934, 26 USC § 5802, since 1988, presently doing business as John M. Appleton Company, 3519 Spring Lake Terrace, Fairfax, Virginia 22030. Since that time, I have manufactured, imported, and/or bought and sold more than 300 NFA firearms, each transaction requiring transfer approval by the NFA Branch of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms ("BATF") at National Headquarters in Washington, DC.

2. On at least five occasions during the past ten years I have been informed by BATF that a firearm I was seeking to transfer was not registered to me. In each instance I was able to prove that BATF's records were incorrect and that the firearm was indeed registered to me. Almost every special occupational taxpayer I am acquainted with (more than 70) has had the same experience. These lapses by BATF are troublesome because of the potentially serious civil and criminal consequences of possessing NFA firearms not shown by the government's records as being properly in one's possession.

3. Since becoming a special occupational taxpayer in 1988 I have undergone three ordinary compliance inspections by BATF. At each inspection the inspector had a computer printout showing the guns registered to me in the national registry. In each instance the printout was wrong by either reflecting guns registered to me, which, in fact, were not, or by failing to list guns, which were in fact legally registered to me, or both. The erroneous additions to a printout are not so dangerous since BATF can usually track down the proper registrant and a dealer is unlikely to be prosecuted or have a gun seized, which is not actually registered to him and is not in his possession. The omissions from the printout are much more serious since, in BATF's eyes, the dealer is in possession of an apparently unregistered gun, or at least in possession of a gun not apparently registered to him, both serious felonies. And BATF will at least seize and forfeit the gun absent the dealer's ability to show authentic registration documents DD documents, which are supposed to be accurately maintained by BATF itself.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on September ____, 1988.

JOHN M. APPLETON

Mr. Appleton's complaint was just an example of how the BATF operated before the new law went into effect; imagine what it was like for Ronnie Carson. Ronnie had the documents, but the BATF refused to accept them as valid. His entire inventory was seized, both the properly listed weapons as well as the single 'firearm' missing from the ATF list. The alleged missing item was a Surefire 762 suppressor ordered for a member of the Little Rock SWAT Team, not even a firearm. In his shelter, Ronnie had a collection of his favorite weapons, 2 ArmaLite AR-50s, 4 AR-10A2s and 4 AR-15A2s. Both the .30 and 5.56x45mm caliber weapons were full auto. Although ArmaLite makes select fire lower receiver assemblies, they aren't available to the general public. A class III dealer was an entirely different matter provided however, he only sold the select fire weapons to LEOs.

Other weapons in his collection included the MP-5/10 originally manufactured for the US government by H&K. The MP-5/10 SMG is a product-improved variation of the world-famous MP-5 9mm submachine gun. Designed especially for the American Law Enforcement user, the MP-5/10 is chambered for the potent 10mm Auto cartridge. Operation and functioning principles of the MP-5/10 are identical to that of the 9mm MP-5.

Numerous user inspired improvements have been incorporated into the design. A new bolt catch holds the bolt group rearward after the magazine is empty. A newly designed translucent (see-through) synthetic magazine allows the user to see the immediate status of the rounds remaining in the magazine. These magazines snap together without the need of an accessory clamp, providing the operator with sixty rounds of available firepower right on the weapon. Using a specially developed high strength polymer, these are magazines 30% lighter and impervious to corrosion.

The MP-5/10 comes standard with HK's ambidextrous trigger group providing for single, 3-round burst and sustained (full automatic) fire modes. Optional trigger groups, including any combination of the above modes of fire, will also be available. The safety-selector switch is easily accessible by right or left-handed operators and does not require operators to change their firing grip to take the weapon off "safe".

A high degree of interchangeability of parts, accessories, stocks and slings exist between the MP-5/10 and the 9mm MP-5. For low light/night use, HK's own Beta (tritium) self-luminous front and rear sights are available as an option. Replacing the standard forearm with an HK Tactical Forearm Light provides the user with an integral 15,000-candle power flashlight.

The MP-5/10 is designed to meet the ever-increasing call by US Law Enforcement for a compact, accurate and reliable submachine gun chambered for a cartridge with increased terminal effects on target. The 10mm Auto cartridge provides up to twice the muzzle energy of the standard 9mm parabellum NATO cartridge, and still is easily controllable due to the unique roller-locked bolt system employed throughout the HK line of weapons. This perfect combination of weapon and cartridge puts the firepower, penetration and hard hitting potential of a .45 ACP Thompson SMG into a package identical in size and weight to the 9mm MP-5.

As with all HK weapons, the MP-5/10 fires from a closed bolt. The newly incorporated bolt catch holds the bolt to the rear after the last round is fired. Depressing the bolt catch release lever releases the bolt to chamber the first round of the loaded magazine. Reloading the MP-5/10 under stress is quick and easy due to the design and location of the bolt catch, the ambidextrous magazine release lever, and the convenient way multiple magazines can be snapped together.

The combat proven recoil operation principle ensures excellent reliability under all conditions and surgical accuracy to ranges of 150 meters and beyond. The ability of the roller-locked bolt system to reduce the peak recoil impulse of the 10mm Auto cartridge translates into a very controllable, low recoiling weapon weighing less than 6-1/2 pounds. This combination of light weight and low recoil, make the MP-5/10 an ideal weapon for all operators, whether large or small statured.

As a replacement or supplement for the shotgun, the MP-5/10 increases the range, accuracy and penetration capability of the user. Its small size makes it easy to transport in and out of confined areas such as vehicles and buildings. Using a 30-round magazine

of 10mm ammunition, the MP-5/10 gives the user an undeniable increase in accurate, hard-hitting firepower without the hazardous need for reloading. Ammunition for the MP-5/10 is completely compatible with 10mm pistols used by many law enforcement organizations today. The MP-5/10 will feed and function reliably with all types of 10mm Auto rounds, both high and low impulse, without modification.

The safety of the MP-5/10, like HK's 9mmSMG, is assured due to its positive safety-selector switch, closed-bolt operation and roller-locked bolt. Series production of the MP-5/10 began in mid-1991. A .40 S&W caliber MP-5, termed MP-5/40, is undergoing development and testing and is expected to enter series production in late 1991. Other than caliber, the MP-5/40 will be identical to the MP-5/10.

Ronnie's pistols were EAA Tanfoglio Witness 10mm pistols with European 15 round magazines. The "natural" capacity of the magazines for this gun is fifteen shots. US import models are physically limited to ten shots due to a modified magazine housing. There are no known "LE only" high capacity magazines imported to the US, although European magazines will be full capacity. I found that sloppy placement of the blocking dent in the magazines often means the mags will only hold nine rounds. Some minor modification of the follower will remedy this and give you the ten shot legal capacity. Interestingly, there are disputes over the existence of full capacity magazines prior to the enactment of the 1994 crime bill. This is due to the on again / off again inclusion of the 10mm in the EAA lineup. The 10mm pistol was a catalog item in 1994, but it is disputed as to whether or not the guns and or magazines were in the US prior to the effective date of the ban which was closer to the last quarter of 1994. In either case, full capacity 10mm magazines are extremely rare in the US. These magazines are quite heavy when loaded. The mags were originally slated for a .40 conversion on the .45 frame, but reliably fit and feed 10mm with no modification.

Other than work the actions of the pistols over to finish them and resolve feeding problems, Ronnie didn't have to do anything special to the Witness handguns. He used Federal 180-grain Hydra-Shok JHP ammo in all of his 10mm guns. That's when the trouble began, when the BATF seized Ronnie Carson's guns. It was front-page news in the Reno, Nevada Gazette-Journal.

"Did you see this article about the guy in Little Rock?"

"Little Rock is a long way from Reno, Gene."

"Yeah, 2,000 miles but if it can happen there, it can happen here."

"Come on, the guy was a class III dealer and had firearms in his possession that weren't on the NFR."

"Half the machine guns in the US aren't on the NFR, ours aren't. Besides, according to the article, the illegal firearm was a .30 caliber Surefire suppressor he ordered for a member of the Little Rock SWAT Team."

“It’s a good thing we don’t have any of those, isn’t it?”

“It sort of bothers me because I’m a class III dealer too. I think that they targeted that guy. The Gazette said that he had quite a collection of personal weapons that he reported stolen. It included ArmaLites, MP-5/10s, and 10mm handguns.”

“That’s easy enough return your inventory to the distributors and cancel your license. The BATF will make an inspection and probably take your record book.”

“I just wonder what really happened to his weapons. It said he was a SEAL during the Vietnam War. I can’t believe that a guy like that would be careless enough to get his weapons stolen.”

“He’d be what, 60 years old?”

“59 according to the paper. About Ted and your Dad’s age.”

“I ought to call him; maybe he wants to get the hell out of Dodge.”

“Little Rock.”

“Whatever. You know what I mean.”

“Once they clear up the paperwork, they should return his inventory.”

“Yeah right. I heard several stories in the ‘90s where they seized dealers’ inventories and never returned them. That was especially true after ‘86 when they enacted that law under Reagan. Given the choice of fighting FEMA or the ATF, I’ll have to say that fighting the ATF would be more entertaining. Especially since we have our own still.”

“That would just get the FDA on our back on top of the ATF. The stuff is either moonshine in very small bottles or an over the counter cough medicine without FDA approval.”

“I guess what it boils down to is that we have too much government. And, regardless of which of the 2 parties is in power, they don’t seem to have the interest of the American people anywhere on their agenda. I’m going to call that SEAL and see if he wants to move to Reno and join the new movement.”

“What movement?”

“The one we’re going to start to put the government in its place once and for all, Gene.”

“We can’t beat the government; they’ll just get another fall guy like they always do.”

“What do you mean?”

“They blamed 9/11 on George Tenet and New Orleans on Mike Brown. Somebody blamed Bush for the Chinese attack and killed him. I think the American people in general were blamed for the terrorist attacks; we’re the ones who were punished with the embedded ID chips. Personally, I blame it on the 1st Amendment, reporters are free to say anything they want, true or not, and they don’t care who they hurt in the process.”

“This country is in pretty sad shape, isn’t it?”

“Jim, you don’t know the half of it. We were supposed to have a weak central government with states’ rights paramount. It’s been the other way around for a very long time, ever since the Civil War. You go ahead and contact that fella in Little Rock, maybe you were right and it’s time we formed a movement and stirred the soup.”

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“Ronald Carson? I’m Jim Young from Reno, Nevada. My partner and I would like to meet with you, would you be up to having some company?”

“I don’t know anyone name Jim Young, why would I want to do that?”

“My partner, Gene Knowles, is a class III dealer, the same as you are. We take issue with what the feds did seizing your inventory. We’ll come to you and you don’t have to say a word, Mr. Carson, just listen. If you like what you hear then you can talk.”

“When would you come?”

“It’s about 2,000-miles to Little Rock from Reno, how about 4 days from now?”

“I run the Ace Hardware store. I’ll be there whenever you fellas show up. Being you’re driving that far just to talk to me, I’ll listen, but that’s all I can promise.”

“We’ll see you in 4 days, Mr. Carson.”

“Who was that honey?”

“Some guy from Reno, Nevada. He and his partner are coming here to talk to me, Janet. I can listen, but I can’t imagine what they’d want.”

“What did your lawyer say?”

“The AFT will return the inventory on the condition that I return it to the distributors and turn in my class III license.”

“At least you’ll be able to get you money back.”

"I didn't break any laws, Janet. Their paperwork was screwed up. I'll go along only to get our money out, but I don't much care for the situation. I had an inquiry from someone interested in buying the store. What say we sell out and move somewhere else?"

"We could put Ron and Patti in the house; maybe even sell it to them on a contract. Where would you want to move to?"

"Somewhere dryer, out west might not be too bad. The humidity always makes the heat so much worse."

"Do you know anything about these people who are coming?"

"Names, Jim Young and Gene Knowles. Knowles is a class III dealer too. And, that's all I know. They'll be here in 4 days, why don't you plan on being at the store when they show up?"

"I can do that, sure."

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"Pack a bag for a 10-day trip, Becky."

"Where are we going?"

"Little Rock, Arkansas. Gene is asking Marilyn to pack her bag too. I also want you to dig out our spare identity chips, just in case. I'll get the papers around and we're going to take your pickup because it has the lowest mileage. I'm having it serviced and a cross bed fuel tank installed. If push comes to shove, we can make the round trip on the fuel we're going to carry. I talked to Mom and she'll watch the kids while we're gone. Get your BOB and weapons around, two sets, the cowboy guns and your FAL and pistol."

"Expecting trouble? It sure sounds like you are."

"We're going to be a long way from home in unfamiliar country, Becky. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

"My pickup already has a cross bed fuel tank."

"Now it will have two, 196 gallons plus another 70 in the tank and the auxiliary. We'll have a cruising range of about 8,000 miles."

"You haven't said what is in Little Rock."

“A man named Ronnie Carson. He’s that class III dealer that they had a write up in the Gazette-Journal about. He’s about our parents’ age, 59. Gene and I are going to do everything in our power to induce him to move to Reno.”

“What for?”

“We’re going to start up a movement to eliminate some of the oppressive laws Congress has enacted.”

“You’re going to start a war with the government?”

“I guess that’s one way of looking at it, sure.”

“I thought you were done with that when you took out those guys from FEMA.”

“That was before the government decided to completely gut the Bill of Rights. The next thing you know, they’ll have a list of approved Churches and the only people who have freedom of speech will be the media. If you think about it, we’re in the best position possible to do something about it because we have SINGGAR radios and as much fire power as the average Guard unit. We haven’t discussed any details yet, but the general idea is to keep the trouble away from our area and stir things up like before when we took the road trip, adjusting FEMA’s attitude.

Jim and Becky Part II – Chapter 16 – The Movement

It only took them 3 days to get to Little Rock; they didn't see the need to waste money on a motel every night, instead, they drove about half way and lay over for a day. Then, they completed the trip. When they got into Little Rock, the four of them got a motel and Jim called Ronnie. He told them to meet him and his wife at the store the next morning around 10. Nevada didn't recognize any other states' CCWs and Arkansas didn't recognize the Nevada CCW and wouldn't issue CCWs to non-residents. They left their weapons in the pickup when they went to meet Ronnie Carson.

"I'm looking for Ronald Carson."

"Who are you?"

"Jim Young."

"I'm Ronnie Carson, you're a day early."

"We split the trip into two 1,000-mile driving stints. Made it easier and we saved on the motel."

"Let's go upstairs to where I used to have my dealership, it's very private."

"We brought our wives."

"Good, my wife Janet is here to meet you fellas too."

"Have a seat. Coffee?"

"Please."

"I'll tell you what, the pot is full and there are cups on the counter, help yourselves and get it the way you like it."

"I'm Becky Young and this is Marilyn Knowles."

"Janet Carson, nice to meet you. You folks are a long way from home."

"Our husbands more or less explained what they had in mind on the drive down; did they explain anything to your husband?"

"Not much. He told me he had the impression that you husband didn't really want to say much over the phone."

"When you hear what they're proposing, Janet, you'll know why."

“Let me start this discussion off,” Gene suggested. “How did you end up coming out with BATF?”

“Gave me the class III stuff back on the condition I returned the weapons to the distributors and turned in my class III license.”

“I already returned everything I had in stock and voluntarily turned in my license. We don’t want to give the feds an excuse to visit our farms.”

“Why is that?”

“If they look hard enough, they might find some things that we wouldn’t want them to find.”

“For instance?”

“Back before the war, some of us had some unregistered class III weapons. After the war, we accumulated more. Mostly we just run a grocery wholesale business under the Two Farms brand. We supply much of the local market in Reno. The government didn’t feel obligated to offer us much protection, after the war or those terrorist strikes. Eventually we got to the point where we could defend ourselves. We have an inroad or two into the Nevada National Guard and both Jim and I were reserve peace officers at one time. However, and I don’t know how you feel about this Ronnie, we’d had it up to here with the damned government and their taking away our rights.”

“Where do I come in? You know that I fought my war back in the late ‘60s and early ‘70s.”

“Most of the population of our two farms is either retired military or active/retired peace officers. We got the ball rolling on that FEMA identity thing and thought we do the same now that the feds are up to the same kind of bad faith behavior. We don’t believe that anyone stole any weapons from you. It isn’t in keeping with the character of a man who was a SEAL.”

“I filed a police report. Even the ATF accepted that.”

“We aren’t the ATF, and we don’t care. The point is we don’t believe it. Let me be the one to break the ice, Ronnie. Every man, woman and child above the age 14 has at least one semi auto pistol and one select fire rifle. We don’t stop there, either, we have anti-tank weapons, machine guns and about the typical equipment an Infantry Company might have, possibly more. At our farms, we treat everyone 15 and up as an adult.”

“And you intend to attack the government?”

“Harass might be a better term. The way the country is going, the Bill of Rights isn’t much more than a piece of paper.”

“What kind of harassment?”

“Do you remember the events in Las Vegas, Littleton, Arizona and Salt Lake City?”

“That was you?”

“I didn’t say that, I only asked if you remembered them.”

“Everyone remembers a bunch of guys who killed about 2 dozen FEMA people. That led to the public response that forced FEMA to pull back.”

“Exactly; we thought those people had the right idea. We also thought maybe we could follow their example and do the same thing to the ATF.”

“Ok, where do I fit into your scheme?”

“One of our residents, a retired Gunnery Sergeant by the name of Mike Cole is the closest thing we have to anyone with Special Forces experience. Gunny was Force Recon for a few years. You were a SEAL, the best of the best. We could use your help and if you really did get robbed, we can supply you with weapons. You can examine Becky’s pickup and see how most of our vehicles are equipped. Since you were in Nam, you ought to know what a V-100 is, the M706. We have two of them, fully equipped. We also have M-79s, MBR’s, AR’s, M-60s, Ma Deuces, LAWs, etc. We generally prefer the select fire FAL rifles, but we have an assortment including some of the M82A1Ms.”

“Interesting. And how is it that the government doesn’t know about the weapons you have?”

“Local government does, the feds don’t. Each farm has a deep survival shelter and bunkers. There isn’t any official record of the shelters; we didn’t pull permits to build them. Each shelter has in excess of 2,000 square feet of space and they can house everyone living on one farm for an extended period. We have a fighting trench around each housing area and a 4-story water tower that doubles as an Op Center.”

“Ron, why don’t you just tell them that you already thought about selling out and moving west?”

“I didn’t want to show my hand until I knew what they were up to, Jan.”

“So, did someone really steal your weapons?”

“Do you know where I can get more 10mm Federal Hydra-Shok ammo?”

“We can get it for you if you can’t get it yourself. Our MP-5s are all 9mm however; they were what we took off the FEMA people we killed.”

“What about 7.62x51mm and 5.56x45mm?”

“We won’t run out of that before we die, we have about 3 pallet loads of each.”

“My role?”

“Planning and training some of our younger people. Jim's father passed on but Becky’s father lives on the farm with them and fought in the same war you did.”

“How many families?”

“Call it 30. About 130 people altogether.”

“Do you have a name for your organization?”

“We call it the movement.”

“What’s the housing situation in Reno?”

“There is a house on each farm and everyone else lives in mobile homes.”

“I guess that you’d better get another, Jan and I will be there in about a month. I have an offer on the store and we’ve already discussed this. We’re putting my son and his wife into our house and selling it to them on a contract. My shelter was under my garage. It wasn’t very big, it’s only a 3 car garage, but all of my weapons were stored there and none were stolen.”

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“Big promise you made.”

“What promise?”

“Getting Ron some of the 10mm Hydra-Shok.”

“It comes 20 rounds per box, 25 boxes per case. I ordered 10 cases of the 180-grain Hydra-Shok from the motel last night. I figured he already had 3-4 cases so I only ordered 5,000 rounds.”

“Where did you get it?”

“Cheaper than Dirt. They aren’t, by the way, but they had the ammo in stock. I bought them out.”

"I called Jeb and told him to find another new or near new trailer and set it up on my farm."

"I wish you had told him to buy all they had."

"I did. But, the way I see it, the problem is that our shelters are getting overcrowded. At 65 people per shelter, we only have about 40 ft² per person."

"Have any idea how to solve that problem?"

"If we got 8 more 60' sections of the used 12' culvert, we could double the space. Also, if we added a couple of 30' sections, we have a separate space for the clinic and the generators."

"You're suggesting 10 more sections?"

"Possibly 12. If we put 4 of the 30' sections into each shelter instead of 2, we have room for an armory and the communications shack."

"Can we get that done before we start on the project?"

"Give me the Iridium phone and I'll call Jeb and find out."

"Jeb, can you get 12 more 60' sections of the used 12' culvert? Call me, I'll leave the phone on."

"What did he say?"

"He said he thought so, but he'd run up to Reno and see."

"Are you going to be able to explain what you have in mind?"

"I don't have to, I can draw a picture on the laptop tonight and send him the file over the phone's data link."

"Then we'd better get a motel and stop for the night. Colby, Kansas is about 1/3 of the way, let's stop somewhere in that general area, wherever we can find a motel."

*Come gather 'round people
Wherever you roam
And admit that the waters
Around you have grown
And accept it that soon
You'll be drenched to the bone.
If your time to you
Is worth savin'*

*Then you better start swimmin'
Or you'll sink like a stone
For the times they are a-changin'.*

*Come writers and critics
Who prophesize with your pen
And keep your eyes wide
The chance won't come again
And don't speak too soon
For the wheel's still in spin
And there's no tellin' who
That it's namin'.
For the loser now
Will be later to win
For the times they are a-changin'.*

*Come senators, congressmen
Please heed the call
Don't stand in the doorway
Don't block up the hall
For he that gets hurt
Will be he who has stalled
There's a battle outside
And it is ragin'.
It'll soon shake your windows
And rattle your walls
For the times they are a-changin'.*

*Come mothers and fathers
Throughout the land
And don't criticize
What you can't understand
Your sons and your daughters
Are beyond your command
Your old road is
Rapidly agin'.
Please get out of the new one
If you can't lend your hand
For the times they are a-changin'.*

*The line it is drawn
The curse it is cast
The slow one now
Will later be fast
As the present now
Will later be past*

*The order is
Rapidly fadin'.
And the first one now
Will later be last
For the times they are a-changin'.*

“That’s nice Jim, but your voice isn’t any better than Bob Dylan’s.”

“Jim Young. Oh hi, Jeb. You can? Good. Buy 12 sections and deliver 6 to each farm. Hook your phone up to the laptop and I’ll send you a drawing of what we want. How many mobile homes did you get? I’ll tell Gene. You should have the file in about 4 hours.”

“He got 8 homes, 4 apiece. Same price, \$5,000 including possessions. He’ll get the culvert and have it ready to install when we get home. We should get more of these Iridium phones.”

“The service is expensive, \$1.49 per minute.”

“We can get a corporate rate, \$20 a month and \$1 a minute.”

“Per phone?”

“Right. Figure on one phone per family.”

“What about the phones?”

“We can buy or rent them.”

“Let’s buy them and get extended warranties. That motel over there is close enough to where we’re going, pull in there, Becky.”

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“Where is the culvert you bought?”

“Already installed, little brother, you forget how many people we have. They finishing up Gene’s at the moment.”

“Any problem with the directions?”

“Nope, we have a clinic wing, armory wing, utility wing and Communications Shack. They is enough room for a lot more people now, we picked up bunk beds for the dorms.”

“Are the trailers installed?”

“You betcha, all 8 are ready to be lived in.”

“Ron Carson should be here in about 4 weeks.”

“The SEAL from Little Rock? He called. The business sold and they’ll be here in 2 weeks.”

“Gene, call the Ammoman and get a price on 9mm and 10mm ammo.”

“Providing he’ll even sell to us.”

“While you’re at it, see what kind of a price you can get on the M1A magazines. If you can get them for \$10, buy at least 200.”

“Anything else?”

“Try for a mixed pallet $\frac{3}{4}$ 9mm and $\frac{1}{4}$ 10mm. I know for a fact that he sells the Hydra-Shok ammo. And I compared his price to Cheaper than Dirt. He’s about $\frac{1}{2}$ their price. Ask him if he has any .45 Colt.”

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It was planting time, the movement would have to wait until fall to get started screwing with ATF. If there is a more deserving group in the country, I don’t know who it might be, this group brags about taking away peoples’ rights. With 8 additional families, they had enough help to harvest timber, and maintain 3 shifts on the bakery and grinding operations. They also expanded the firewood operation to 3 shifts; the people harvesting the timber could produce logs faster than they could cut them to length, split and shrink-wrap them. Each of the 2 shelters now had $2\frac{1}{2}$ times as much space as before, restoring the approximate 100 ft² per person. The air filter systems were rated at 50 persons, so they got 2 additional systems for each shelter, making it possible for all 150 of the residents to occupy either of the shelters in a pinch.

In the year 2010 and beyond, the US wasn’t a nice place to live anymore. It might still be the richest country in the world and have the most powerful military, but the government had lost its mind. They compounded their feeble-mindedness, as evidenced by the identity chips, by outlawing most of the handguns and a large share of the other firearms. Did anyone really believe that a Remington 1100 or an 11-87 semi-automatic shotgun was a dangerous assault weapon?

Firearms are used to commit as many as 650,000 crimes each year. But firearms are also used to prevent crimes as many as one million times each year. In fact, criminals are three times more likely to be killed by armed victims who resist them than by the police. Would tougher gun control laws make our lives safer? Fair appraisal of the issue requires us to put aside some common myths.

Myth No. 1: Guns cause crime. A careful review of 18 academic studies shows that there is no relationship between the number of guns and the amount of crime in the United States. International evidence tells a similar story.

Myth No. 2: Gun control laws reduce crime. The nation already has 20,000 gun control laws, and the police arrest 220,000 people a year on weapons violations. Yet the violent crime rate is at an all-time high. Moreover, considering that less than 1 percent of all guns are involved in a crime and only 12 percent of all violent crimes involve a gun, gun control laws could have only a modest effect on crime – even if they worked exactly as intended, which they don't. For example, New Jersey, Hawaii and Washington, DC, experienced sharp murder-rate increases after passing tough gun control laws. Canada, Taiwan and Jamaica reported similar experiences.

Myth No. 3: Guns are of little help in defending against criminals. In fact, guns are a big help. Each year, potential victims kill from 2,000 to 3,000 criminals and wound an additional 9,000 to 17,000. And mishaps are rare. Private citizens mistakenly kill innocent people only 30 times a year, compared with about 330 mistaken killings by police. Criminals succeed in taking a gun away from an armed victim less than 1 percent of the time.

Myth No. 4: Killing someone is the only reason to buy a handgun. The vast majority of gun owners cite protection from crime as one of the main reasons they own a gun. And for good reason, Americans use guns for self-protection about one million times a year. In 98 percent of the cases, they simply brandish the weapon or fire a warning shot.

Myth No. 5: People who buy guns are more prone to violence and crime than are other people. Violence and crime are higher among black than white, lower-income than middle- or upper-income, young than middle-aged, single than married, and urban than rural individuals – all contrary to the pattern of gun ownership.

Myth No. 6: Criminals mainly have guns in order to commit crimes. The number one reason criminals acquire guns is for self-protection against other criminals. Fewer than half of felons think handguns are important for use in committing crimes.

Myth No. 7: Killings and other violent crimes were prevalent in the Old West because guns were so plentiful. Much of the violence on the frontier involved clashes with Indians, bandits and foreigners. Even so, the frontier was a lot safer than America is today. There was very little ordinary crime – less than in most cities in the East.

Myth No. 8: Gun controls keep criminals from obtaining guns. In surveys of prisoners, a majority said that prior to imprisonment they had owned a handgun. But less than one in six guns had been purchased from a retail dealer. Three-fourths of the felons said they would have no trouble obtaining a gun when they were released, despite legal prohibitions.

Myth No. 9: Required waiting periods would prevent some of the most vicious crimes. If the Brady bill were law, it would not have saved Jim Brady. Nor would it have prevented the Killeen, Texas, massacre or the slaughter at McDonald's in Stockton, Calif. However, an instant records check (to identify felons when they try to purchase guns from retail dealers) and better enforcement of existing laws (to turn criminals into convicted felons) might well prevent some vicious crimes.

Myth No. 10: Most murders are committed by people killing friends or family members; the actual number is about one out of five. Most in-household killings are not crimes of passion. They're the culmination of years of abusive behavior, and often it is the abuser who is killed.

Myth No. 11: The availability of guns contributes to crimes of passion. In about 90 percent of "crime-of-passion" domestic homicides, the police had been called in previously to break up violence. In half the cases, the police had been called in five or more times. There is no evidence that a significant number of homicides occur simply because a lethal weapon is handy.

Myth No. 12: Automatic rifles and so-called assault weapons are too dangerous to be left in private hands. Over the past 50 years no civilian has ever used a legally owned machine gun in a violent crime. And despite their repeated use by drug dealers on "Miami Vice" and in the movies, no Uzi has ever been used to kill a police officer. Even gun control advocates concede that so-called assault weapons play a minor role in violent crime.

Myth No. 13: Gun control laws are especially needed to prevent the purchase of "Saturday Night Specials." Inexpensive handguns are involved in only 1 to 3 percent of violent crimes, and criminals are no more likely to use one than any other type of handgun.

Myth No. 14: People don't need guns for self-protection because they can rely on the police. About 83 percent of the population will be victims of violent crime at some point in their lives, and in any given year serious crime touches 25 percent of all households. Considering that, effectively, there is only one police officer on patrol for every 3,300 people, the odds are not likely to improve. And the courts have ruled that government has no duty to protect individual citizens from crime.

Myth No. 15: Gun ownership is not a constitutional right. The Second Amendment reflects the founders' belief that an armed citizenry (called the "general militia") was a necessary precaution against tyranny by our own government and its army. The idea that government has a constitutional right to disarm the general citizenry is totally foreign to the intent of the Constitution's framers.

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One thing was certain: the way to insure that the people of the United States pursued their Constitutional guarantees was to take those rights away. If the government did it

slowly, no one really noticed. But when they did it in one fell swoop, like the identity chips or outlawing semi-automatic firearms, they overreached and got peoples' attention. Don't kid yourself, the federal government and the state governments have records of most, if not all, firearms transactions conducted by holders of firearms licenses. Perhaps that explains why both the state and the feds are always so upset over *strawman* purchases. Not every *strawman* purchase is an attempt to acquire a firearm to commit a crime, except that buying a firearm though a *strawman* is a crime in and of itself.

Do the police have an obligation to protect you? In a word: no.

The courts are very clear on this topic in several landmark rulings:

Hartzler v. City of San Jose

DeShaney v. Winnebago Department of Social Services

Warren v. District of Columbia

Of the three cases the most interesting to me is the third. The short version of the story is as follows: Two women heard their roommate downstairs being attacked by intruders. The two women called the police station and were told that officers were on their way. When their roommate's screams stopped they assumed that the police had arrived. They were wrong. For the next 14 hours the women were forced to... (I am sure you can find it on the web if you really want to know.) As expected, the women sued the city. The opinion of the court was that it is a "fundamental principle of American law that a government and its agents are under no general duty to provide public services, such as police protection, to any individual citizen."

Although I (him, not me) have no problem with the ruling, I find it most ironic that the District of Columbia does not allow its citizens to protect themselves with firearms.

This situation becomes even more complex when looked at in the light of *DeShaney v. Winnebago Department of Social Services*. The opinion of the court here is that "care and protection only exist as to certain individuals, such as incarcerated prisoners."

So:

The police have no obligation to protect the innocent.

The police have an obligation to protect criminals.

Your rights to protect yourself may or may not exist – depending on where you live.

The bottom line is that the **cops don't have to protect you** and the government is doing everything in its power to prevent you from protecting yourself. Many people are liberals until he or she gets mugged. Some people will never get mugged; they believe what the 2nd Amendment says and believe that it is an individual right. Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton think everything that happens is a black-white thing. Reporters who aren't liberals garner strange looks. If you spend anytime observing news reporters at work, you know exactly what I mean. I've got it up to here...

A movement is defined as:

- a. A series of actions and events taking place over a period of time and working to foster a principle or policy: a movement toward world peace.
- b. An organized effort by supporters of a common goal: a leader of the labor movement.

Either of those definitions seems to fit here. An example of a movement might be the Boston Tea Party. Few people know that a Masonic Lodge took the action or that, that particular meeting was never closed. It isn't important, but it is a fact. The Masonic Order mostly founded the United States of America. Look at a dollar bill; the pyramid and the eye are Masonic symbols. Masons believe in a higher power that they call the Great Architect of the Universe. Such a name is used to avoid any religious limitations, although most Masons are Protestants or Jews. Like many other organizations, the Masonic Order is heavily involved in charitable activities these days. We all know what the Shiners do and they are 32nd degree Masons. The many other fine fraternal organizations like the Knights of Columbus (Catholic), the Independent (International) Order of Odd Fellows, etc. all contribute to their communities. I suppose that one is every bit as good as the other, and it just depends upon which fraternity one chooses to belong to.

Our founding fathers foresaw the day when the system they set up might fail the people. If a person like Alexander Hamilton didn't believe in something called The Bill of Rights, so be it. Enough others did that it became the first 10 Amendments to the Constitution of the United States of America. There is no such thing as a perfect system; a system needs an inbuilt flexibility to meet the needs of the people. The founding fathers stopped when they created 3 branches of government that, in theory, they oversaw each other. As far as it goes, it is a good system; maybe the best in the history of the world provided it is maintained. That's the point here, remedial maintenance, you fix it when it starts to break before it gets so broken it can't be fixed and has to be replaced.

The movement was apolitical; all it wanted was the system to be restored to that envisioned by the founding fathers. As such, there existed a mechanism or two to make the changes, the ballot box was the most important tool, but when you couldn't find an honest politician, the second such mechanism was the rifle. And that mechanism is called the Second Amendment.

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Interesting wording, "to form a more perfect union" as opposed to "to form a perfect union." And, "secure the Blessing of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity." At the outset they suggest that the Constitution isn't perfect, but rather the best that they could come up with. During the course of our history, in addition to the 27 amendments that have been ratified by the required three-fourths of the States, six other amendments have

been submitted to the States but have not been ratified by them. The first two of these were proposed in 1789. One, the 2nd, was eventually ratified as the 27th amendment. The other and 5 more were never ratified even though one of the six was actually signed by the President, Abraham Lincoln.

The goal of the movement wasn't necessarily to kill, although they weren't opposed to the idea, but solely as a means to pressure the federal government and draw attention to the cause. To a man and woman, they preferred to remain anonymous. Maybe it was a new 12-step organization, Patriots Anonymous, who will ever know? If they were identified, they would surely be charged with treason. The only criteria for membership was an affirmation to support and defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic, but especially domestic. Many of those enemies died in Atlanta, Kennedy, Clinton, Schumer, Biden, Feinstein, Boxer and Leahy.

The Movement was under the control of the Committee. The Committee consisted of: Jim Young, Gene Knowles, Ted Baker, Jeb Young, Owen Smith, Gunny Cole, Ron Carson, Lance James and Ron Matthews. Eight of the nine had military experience, including 2 with Special Forces experience, and 3 had experience in law enforcement. Other residents, including active duty law enforcement officers and members of the Guard, were available as advisors if a question presented itself that none of them could answer. Jeb was the only one with neither, giving him a unique perspective. With their goal in mind, the Committee began to plan a fall campaign. After a long day and a quick dinner, they'd get together and plan. At the outset, Reno was off limits, there were simply too many people in Reno who might recognize them.

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"I don't see why we can't go where we went the last time. We're not going after FEMA, so recognizing us should be a problem."

"As I understand it, last time you went to Las Vegas first and then went up I-15?"

"Right, we caught a dozen of them in that 26 mile strip of Arizona between Nevada and Utah. After we took those guys out when they came out of the bar in Salt Lake, we headed to Denver."

"I didn't hear about any trouble in Denver, what happened?"

"FEMA was well behaved when we got there, nothing happened. We only attacked them where there was clear evidence that they were abusing their powers."

"I still think that we should have reconnoitered the communities before we traveled to them," Gunny grouched.

“Fine, you just named your own poison, scout out Denver, Salt Lake, Albuquerque, and Phoenix. You can check out Vegas on your way home. How long do you think it will take you?”

“A detailed survey of 5 cities? I better plan on about 5 weeks. That will give me travel time and at least 4-5 days in every area. Who can I take with me?”

“Who do you want?”

“I don’t have anything against SEALs.”

“Ron, do you want to go with Gunny?”

“I suppose, Janet and I have everything unpacked and put away, why not?”

“What do you intend to take for weapons?”

“Gunny, how about I fix you up with a set of 10mm weapons, a MP-5/10 and a pistol?”

“Do we have enough ammo?”

“These yard birds bought 30 cases of Hydra-Shok. We could take on the entire ATF.”

“I don’t know, all of my weapons are suppressed.”

“You want suppressors, you have suppressors. We’d better spend some time on the range and let you get used to the 10mm weapons before we leave.”

“When do you want to leave?”

“After the 4th of July, I don’t want to miss the picnic and meeting everyone.”

“What do you want us to use for comms?”

“Take a laptop and a data link for the Iridium phone. You can type out your reports, encrypt them and send them by the data link.”

“Will it be just the two of us, or are we taking 2 others with us?”

“Who would you want to take?”

“Owen, you feel, like a road trip?”

“I could manage.”

“Jeb, you don’t have any military experience, but I hear that you never miss with that White Feather.”

“Fine, I’ll go, but as Jim pointed out, targets don’t shoot back.”

“Ron, do you have enough 10mm stuff for 4 people?”

“That’s exactly what I have; 4 submachine guns and 4 pistols, all suppressed if that’s how you want them.”

“Perfect, move the extra 98-gallon fuel tank out of Becky’s pickup and install it in whatever pickup you intend to take. I’ll give you two of the Iridium phones so you have a primary and a backup. You’d better find two laptops and get them ready to go. Anything else you need, you can arrange yourselves.”

“I’m going to take a Barrett, just in case we get in a situation that requires some heavy firepower,” Gunny announced.

“Do we still have the Raufoss ammo left?”

“If we don’t, I talk to Marjorie Benson and see if she can get us some.”

“Ron, you haven’t met Marjorie yet. She’s Joe Mason’s live-in and as soon as the court settles his wife case, they’re getting married. She’s a Staff Sergeant in the Nevada National Guard.”

“What case, a divorce?”

“Missing and presumed dead. It takes 3 years in Nevada. She went missing around the time we had trouble with FEMA and many suspected that she was the person who ratted us out.”

“I heard someone talking about that. You were engaged to her and your wife dated her husband?”

“A very long time ago, yes. Anyway, she disappeared and foul play has always been suspected.”

“You mean she’s dead?”

“That’s the consensus, yes.”

“Any suspects?”

“One, Becky.”

“Remind me not to make her mad, she carries a Rambo III knife plus that revolver loose in her holster.”

“You could shave with the top or bottom edge of that blade, too,” Gene smiled.

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Salt Lake City, Denver, Albuquerque, Phoenix, and Las Vegas would be visited in that order. The other 7 homes were filled with members of the Nevada National Guard who needed fulltime jobs. The economy of the country was taking a real beating because the nuked cities were still too hot, 3 years after the war, to rebuild. The firewood business was getting to the point where Gene was considering selling half cords for \$150, delivered and stacked. However, most of the people selling firewood by the cord only were charging \$175 for a full cord, delivered and dumped. And, their cords were more on the order of a pickup load that they called a cord, about 90-100 ft². He deferred the decision until after the harvest. They could do it when the group of 20 men went on the road.

The word “terrorism” is controversial, with no universally agreed definition. The way the term is used varies widely, with descriptive and prescriptive applications, and is often used in its prescriptive (normative) sense to signal that the political violence of an enemy is regarded as unjustified or unjustifiable. As a result, those accused of being terrorists rarely identify themselves as such, instead using terms such as separatist, freedom fighter, liberator, militant, activist, insurgent, paramilitary, guerrilla, rebel, jihadi, Mujahedeen or Fedayeen.

Definitions of “terrorism” generally involve some or all of the following:

- A terrorist act is generally unlawful.
- It is violent and may be life threatening.
- The violence is politically motivated.
- The direct targets are civilians.
- The direct targets may not be the main targets.
- The main targets may be one or more nation-states, governments, or societies; or a political, ethnic, or religious group, or an industry or commercial operation, within those societies.
- The objective is usually to intimidate the main targets.
- There may or may not be a claim of responsibility.
- The perpetrator is usually a non-state entity. Where there is direct state involvement, the state actors are clandestine or semi-clandestine.

“Given that set of definitions of what a terrorist is, are they going to call us terrorists?” Jeb asked.

“Count on it. However, today is the 4th of July, so maybe we should consider ourselves to be good old-fashioned patriots. We aren’t going to target civilians, just the ATF. They might not be military, but they sure aren’t innocent civilians.”

“I second, that,” Gene added. “The loser of any war is the one charged with war crimes, not the winner.”

“I wasn’t in on the deal with FEMA, why didn’t they call you terrorists that time?”

“They never had a chance, we quit and they never figured out who we were. Then the entire country got on the band wagon and those politicians crawled back under their rocks.”

“What are we going to do?”

“Gunny and Ron know, but it boils down to deciding who we’re going to hit when and where and how we get away with our butts intact. You watch yourself, Jeb; the feds are likely to be paranoid. Not every paper has come out with editorials supporting the government and they might think someone is out to get them. You’re going to be covering their backs, you know.”

“I was wondering why I needed to be armed.”

“Like I told you before, I don’t care whether you’re mad or not when you shoot, just don’t miss. After you’ve seen some of their high-handed tactics, you’ll change your mind. When are you guys leaving?”

“Gunny said on Thursday, July 15th.”

“When will you be back?”

“Around the 20th of August.”

“These guys are counting on you. If one of them gets in trouble, it’s going to be up to you to get them out. If it wasn’t harvest time, I’d love to go in your place. You need to see Becky and switch to your fake identity before you guys leave. We can’t have any of you traced back here if something goes wrong.”

“Why are you so worried?”

“You’re up against professional law enforcement, not FEMA’s goons. This could get dicey.”

“What could get dicey?” Owen asked.

“This mission of yours. I was telling Jeb that you’re going to be up against professional law enforcement officers.”

“I know some people in every one of those cities, members of the Guard or vets. Most of them are patriots, the same as we are. I’ll look them up when we hit town and find us a fallback position. After we raise hell in their city, they’re going to be the people fighting the government anyway. Have you ever seen the military monuments in DC? Kind of makes your blood run cold when you realize that they all died to keep this country free. They didn’t all get killed, you know. Most of them will get off their duffs and fight once we show them something worth fighting for. Anyway, I was just coming to tell you that the food was ready.”

“I’m concerned that the President will declare martial law if this really takes off, Owen. But I don’t see how we can’t do it.”

“If you’d rather wait, I’m sure someone else will do it. People won’t wait long to fight the government once they start grabbing everyone’s guns. There have already been a few isolated incidents but nothing organized. Once we get something organized, everyone will join in. You’re about to see the fall of the American government. Then we’ll pick up the Constitution and dust it off and start over again with the same good document. You swore an oath once, and I’ll bet you still feel obligated, don’t you?”

“As a matter of fact, I do.”

“Sort of gets in your blood and you can never wash it out. What rank were you?”

“Sergeant.”

“Then you’ve been through the NCO Academy. Jim, you know that you’re going to fight anyone who undermines the Constitution.”

“Get off your soapbox; you know I’m in this thing for whatever needs doing. Let’s get that lunch.”

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Ten days later, the guy’s took off in Gunny’s H-1 Hummer. He claimed he hated the darned thing, but it was kind of like a familiar pair of shoes. They hadn’t installed that cross bed fuel tank behind the back seats and with the fuel they had aboard, 70 gallons, they could get to Salt Lake without even stopping for fuel. Denver was about 535 miles so if they fueled in Salt Lake, they could make it to Denver without stopping too. BATF is part of the Justice Department, not the Department of Homeland Security like FEMA. The Salt Lake City Field Office was part of the Phoenix Field Division and was located at 257 East 200 South, Suite 475, Salt Lake City. They hadn’t even updated their online Quick Reference to the Federal Firearms Laws. The new laws were contained in Title 18, § 932. That’s where the new law belonged anyway. It was maybe 3 blocks from Capitol Hill. They stayed at the Hotel Monaco located at 15 W 200 S; it was close enough for government work. It had everything they needed including high-speed Internet access. It was one of those places where if you asked the rate, you couldn’t afford it.

They had a room on an upper floor. Everyone had a pocket full of Gold Eagles, so it didn't matter.

"Nice room."

"We could have stayed at Little America, it's a lot cheaper. That's where we stayed last time."

"Last time FEMA visited us, this will do fine; terrorists don't stay in places like this. Besides, I think I can see the BATF office from my room."

"You'd better send them a message and tell them we got here ok and that we are about 3 blocks from the target. How are you going to encrypt the messages?"

"2,048 bit GNU Privacy Guard 1.4.2 using the one-time pad Jim gave me."

"Can it be broken?"

"Not with a one-time pad. We have a maximum of 6 separate sheets per day. They're all loaded on the computers."

"What's the password in case you get killed?"

"Abraham Lincoln's girlfriend's last name, Rutledge."

"What does that have to do with anything?"

"Nothing. That's why it's perfect. Besides since you know whose last name it is, you can go to a library and look it up if you forget."

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"Do the ATF guys drive Suburban's?"

"Darned if I know, they sure should, they're bulletproof."

"I got 4 guys with MP-5s getting into a Suburban in front of the office building where their office is."

"Gunny, grab you stuff and let's follow them. Jeb, give us a call on channel 1000 on the SINGARS with your Spearhead."

"They're going straight ahead; you should be able to catch them."

"Roger, I've got them."

“Any idea where they’re going?”

“Negative, probably to harass some Mormon gun collector. We’re going code 7 at Little America. Standby.”

“10-4.”

“We’re back, they’re headed to Capitol Hill.”

“10-4.”

“They picked up a car with 4 state troopers and are headed east.”

“Click, click.”

“We are RTB, 15 minutes out.”

“10-4, meet you in the bar.”

“What happened?”

“The troopers and they roused some guy and they must have had a warrant, they searched his house and came out with several firearms.”

“Well, we have one po’d Mormon, or don’t they get mad?”

“Looked mad to me. Why?”

“Maybe we have ourselves a new ally.”

“Let’s go talk to him.”

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“We saw that the ATF raided you today, what did they get?”

“Who are you?”

“An interested party, you can call me Owen and him Gunny. Now what did they get?”

“My entire gun collection, a couple of AR15s, a Remington 1100 and 2 Browning Hi-Power pistols and a Ruger 10/22.”

Jim and Becky Part II – Chapter 17 – Allies

“Can we come in? We might have a solution to your problem.”

“I can’t offer you coffee, lemonade ok?”

“Thanks. All semi auto and perfectly legal except for the new law, right?”

“I didn’t think they’d bother an average citizen.”

“Were you in the military?”

“Four years in the Army.”

“We can replace the AR15s with M16A2s, if you want. All we have in the way of extra handguns are some Smith & Wesson .357s.”

“Why would you do that?”

“We need some allies in Salt Lake for a future operation.”

“You didn’t even ask my name and you know nothing about me.”

“Are you angry?”

“Very.”

“Did they take your magazines and ammo?”

“Just the guns.”

“Gunny get the stuff I offered for our new friend out of the Hummer.”

“My name is James Hedges. I’m originally from Reno.”

“Know a Police Officer named John Hedges?”

“Knew him, he was my brother, but he’s dead.”

“We know. One of our group was his partner for a shift.”

“Who?”

“Jim Young.”

“The hero rookie he was leery of?”

“The one and the same. Sorry about your brother.”

“Thanks, it’s been a while.”

“Here are the weapons, 2 M16A2 rifles and 2 S&W 686 revolvers with 4” barrels. You should be able to buy a new pump shotgun and a different style .22 rifle. We only have one box of cartridges for the revolvers. I’m going to give you an email address. It’s a cut out but if you hear anything you think we should know, send us an email and we’ll be in touch. We be back in your city later this year and may have some more weapons for you. Every shoot a MP-5?”

“No, is it hard to get familiar with?”

“Nothing to it. If you get together with some like-thinking people who don’t care for the ATF either, let us know. Give me your phone number and we’ll call you.”

“You fellas seem to be very trusting, maybe a little too much.”

“Are you saying we can’t trust you Jim?”

“No, but the way you came waltzing in and started handing out firearms, illegal firearms, how do I know that you’re not ATF setting me up?”

“I guess that you don’t. You can give us the weapons back and we’ll leave. Sorry to have bothered you.”

“Wait, don’t go, a man has to be careful. Those thugs said that if I replaced any of the weapons they seized, I’d end up in jail.”

“Thugs? Are you calling federal peace officers thugs? Listen to yourself. No, we were right in the first place, now, are you in or out?”

“In. There are several of us in this neighborhood, sort of a group. Would you like to meet the others?”

“They don’t know us and we can’t take the time to pass a bunch of background checks. We still have to monitor the activities of the BATF for a few days before we move to our next destination.”

“Then, you’ll be in the city for a few days?”

“3 or 4.”

“Where are you staying?”

"In a motel. We can call you, what's your number?"

"I'll write it down. If I could get some of the group together tonight, could you come by?"

"We'll call you around 6pm?"

"That should work."

"We have to go, see you tonight."

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"Jeb, rent a car and keep this address under observation. Travel light, all we need you to do is observe. We called on the fella that the BATF roused earlier today. We're supposed to meet with some of his group tonight. We don't want to walk into something we're not expecting."

"What's his name?"

"James Hedges. He's the brother of the cop who got killed in Reno that Jim partnered with for one shift. The brother got himself killed because he was too politically correct but Gunny and I have the impression that this guy is different and we need to be sure."

"You just knocked on the door and gave him weapons?"

"That about sums it up. Take one of the Iridium phones and keep it on. We'll call you later."

"What are you going to do?"

"Tag along with the AFT and see who else they bust today."

"In the Hummer?"

"No, we're going to rent a car, too."

"This is something out of a B movie from Hollywood."

"They don't use real bullets in the movies. Take the MP-5 and your Tanfoglio Witness, but avoid contact with anyone."

"I've never done any surveillance before, what do I do?"

"Try and find a location where you can keep an eye on the guy's house and not be noticed. Take the camera with the telephoto lens and take everyone's picture."

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That's how a movement gets started, with someone willing to take a risk. Who better to ask than a victim? Having put your cards on the table, you had to sit back and see how the other fella played the hand he was dealt. Jeb rented a car and found a location about 2 blocks from James Hedges' home. Over the course of the day, several people went in and out. He got all of their pictures and took the disk to get pictures printed. He hadn't heard from Owen, Gunny or Ron the entire day.

"Here you go; about a dozen guys were in and out over the course of the day. The one picture is them entering Hedges house and the second is them returning to their own home."

"Anyone from outside of the neighborhood?"

"Didn't see anyone, just those 12 neighbors."

"Were you spotted?"

"If I was, no one said anything. What did you do this afternoon?"

"Followed BATF and those troopers. They roused 2 more survivalist types and seized their guns. One guy put up some resistance and got himself arrested."

"Where did they take him?"

"To their office, but we didn't see where he ended up. I've got to go to a pay phone and call Hedges and see what time he wants us to come by. The three of us will go and you can cover us, but we don't really expect any trouble."

"Jim, this is Owen. Are we meeting tonight?"

"7:30 at my house."

"All of us will be there. We have a third fella along and you can call him Seal."

"No names, huh?"

"Poor operational security. Nicknames will do fine. We've put up our bona fides, so it's your turn."

"See you at 7:30."

"Is your night scope sighted in?"

"The AN/PVS-27? Sure, nothing to sight in."

“Put it on and go with the Nightforce. I doubt we’ll have any trouble, but it pays to have our back covered.”

When is a night vision scope worth \$7,000? How about when it’s on a \$10,000 rifle? The Raptor Generation 3+ night vision scope is a true night vision scope and very expensive. Some guy has an M-249 for sale on the Internet:

Pre-86 FN M249 SAW. N.I.B. with box and manual. Never fired other than from the factory. I never even put in a belt to see how it looks. Gun was taken out of shrink-wrap to oil it up. Comes with the following accessories:

- 4X RAPTOR Night vision scope with A.R.M.S. mount
 - 7 brand new 100RD ammo bags
 - 2 cans of original SAW ammo in battle packs (4 in 1 AP-APT)
 - 1 brand new paratrooper stock
 - 1 brand new quick change barrel
- Price is \$82,500.00

No darned wonder the government passed laws like 18 USC § 932.

“You see, Your Honor, I always wanted a fully automatic weapon and if I was going to go with a machine gun, why not an M-249? Then if someone asked me about it, I could just tell them I was a carpenter and all I had was a hammer and a SAW.”

And, talk about a markup:

Primary function: Hand-held combat machine gun
Manufacturer: Fabrique Nationale Manufacturing, Inc.
Length: 40.87 inches (103.81 centimeters)
Weight: With bipod and tools 15.16 pounds (6.88 kilograms)
200-round box magazine: 6.92 pounds (3.14 kilograms)
30-round magazine: 1.07 pounds (.49 kilograms)
Bore diameter: 5.56mm (.233 inches)
Maximum effective range: 3281 feet (1000 meters) for an area target
Maximum range: 2.23 miles (3.6 kilometers)
Rates of fire:
Cyclic: 725 rounds per minute
Sustained: 85 rounds per minute
Unit Replacement Cost: \$4,087

Heck, buy 2; he only wants 8X the price the government pays. The Raptor 4X scope is worth about \$7,000 MSRP. But, wear your gloves; it’s probably hotter than a Saturday Night Special after a gun battle. Why would you want a night vision scope on a machine gun?

By the way, if you think the Federal Hydra-Shok 10mm ammo is the hot ticket, think again. It is rated at 1,080fps and 425ft-lbs. The Winchester ammo is rated at 1,249fps and 649ft-lbs for the 175-grain Super-X Silvertip hollow point. The Remington ammo is in between the Federal and the Winchester ammo, but is FMJ. Federal also has a FMJ cartridge, but it's less powerful than the Remington. And the Raptor is military and LEO only, that's how good it is. They're in the \$7-\$8,000 price range.

On the other hand, the AN/PVS-27 aka Magnum Universal Night Sight or MUNS sells for ~\$11,000 and is more appropriate on .50 cal rifle like the Tac-50 made by McMillan in Phoenix. The slightly cheaper AN/PVS-22 Universal Night Sight or UNS would be appropriate for a M25 and cost ~\$1,000 less.

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"Good evening, I'm Owen and he is Gunny. You can call the other fella Seal. We don't really want to know anybody's name if that's all right with you."

"You took quite a risk giving me those weapons, thanks."

"We figured we could always get them back if things didn't work out."

"You must have a large organization."

"You saw how the Hummer was equipped. All of our vehicles are the same. Extended range fuel tanks, winch, run-flat tires and several radios. We've even installed Spectra Shield in the bodies. We mostly use diesel hybrid pickups, but Gunny had to have his Hummer."

"This no name basis is fine with us. We may have someone inside of our organization that is talking to the feds. We haven't been able to figure it out."

"Why do you think that?"

"Too many of us have had our weapons seized."

"I don't know that we can supply replacement weapons for all that you've lost. The ones we gave you came from some people who attacked us a couple of years back."

"That won't be necessary, we have more than enough. How many people do you have covering your back?"

"One."

"The guy with the camera?"

"Yep. He's posted with an M25 equipped with a Nightforce through a MUNS."

“Have you ever heard of the Danites?”

“Enlighten me.”

“Ebenezer Robinson (who remained with the church after 1838), recalled that the next day a letter was ‘gotten up in the office of the First Presidency’, which Danite leader Sampson Avard later charged was written by Sidney Rigdon. Whatever its origins, the letter was addressed specifically to the principal dissenters: Oliver Cowdery, David Whitmer, John Whitmer, W.W. Phelps, and Lyman E. Johnson. It made several accusations concerning the actions and character of these dissenters and then stated:

‘We have solemnly warned you, and that in the most determined manner, that if you do not cease that course of wanton abuse of the citizens of this county, that vengeance would overtake you sooner or later, and that when it did come it would be as furious as the mountain torrent, and as terrible as the beating tempest; but you have affected to despise our warnings, and pass them off with a sneer, or a grin, or a threat, and pursued your former course; and vengeance sleepeth not, neither does it slumber; and unless you heed us this time, and attend to our request, it will overtake you at an hour when you do not expect, and at a day when you do not look for it; and for you there shall be no escape; for there is but one decree for you, which is depart, depart, or a more fatal calamity shall befall you’.”

“The letter – the so-called ‘Danite Manifesto’ – was signed by eighty-three Mormons, including Joseph Smith's brother, and fellow member of the First Presidency, Hyrum. Robinson later asserted that all of the signers were Danites.”

“The letter had the desired effect as the dissenters quickly fled the county, relocating to Liberty and Richmond in neighboring Clay and Ray counties. Their families were forced to follow later, leaving their property behind. One of the expelled dissenters, John Whitmer, claimed that they had been ‘driven from their homes’ and robbed ‘of all their goods save clothing & bedding &c.’. Reed Peck agreed, asserting that ‘the claims by which this property was taken from these men were unjust and perhaps without foundation cannot be doubted by any unprejudiced person acquainted with all parties and circumstances’.”

“Joseph Smith, who later denied any direct involvement with the Danites, noted in his journal that the dissenters ‘took warning and soon they were seen bounding over the prairie like the scape Goat to carry off[f] their own sins’. According to Peck, Sidney Rigdon likewise approved and asserted that the Mormons were within their rights to expel a undesirable minority from their midst, saying that:

‘When a country, or body of people have individuals among them with whom they do not wish to associate and a public expression is taken against their remaining among them and such individuals do not remove it is the principle of republicanism itself that gives that community a right to expel them forcibly and no law will prevent it’.”

“With the dissenters successfully removed, the Danites took on three additional primary functions, (1) enforcement of the Law of Consecration, (2) political activities, and (3) militia activities.”

“Joseph Smith outlined some of the expanded roles in his journal on July 27th, 1838:

‘Thus far, according to the order of the Danites. We have a company of Danites in these times, to put to right physically that which is not right, and to cleanse the Church of every great evil which has hitherto existed among us inasmuch as they cannot be put to right by teachings and persuasions [sic]. This company or a part of them exhibited on the fourth day of July [—] They come up to consecrate, by companies of tens, commanded by their captains over ten’.”

“So are you fellas Danites?”

“There haven’t been any Danites since 1838. The Nauvoo Legion was a private militia employed by Joseph Smith, Jr. and Brigham Young during the Latter Day Saint movement through 1870 for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The Legion was named for the city of its inception, Nauvoo, Illinois, although it only operated there for six years. The final use of the Legion was in Utah’s Black Hawk War 1865-1868 when over 2,500 troops were dispatched against Indians led by Antonga Black Hawk. (Antonga Black Hawk was a Ute and has no connection to the Illinois Sauk chief Black Hawk of the 1830s.) In 1870 the Utah Territorial governor, J. Wilson Shaffer forced the Legion inactive unless he ordered otherwise. Federal troops dispatched in response to the 1870 Ghost Dance ensured Shaffer's order was enforced. The Nauvoo Legion never gathered again, and the 1887 Edmunds-Tucker Act permanently disbanded it. In 1894, in anticipation of statehood, the Utah National Guard was organized as Utah's official state militia.”

“We don’t have any Mormons in our community.”

“Nobody’s perfect.”

“So whatever you’re called is it fair to say that you’re organized?”

“Actually, the Nauvoo Legion has a nice ring to it. We’re organized, but we don’t have a name for our organization.”

“We call ours the Movement.”

“How many people can you count on?”

“Including women and everyone age 15 and up, perhaps 100, but not more than 150.”

“And I take it you’re pretty well equipped?”

“You might say that, yes. Nothing bigger than .50 caliber except for the LAWs and the 40mm grenades.”

“Mark 19?”

“M-79.”

“Want some?”

“With ammo?”

“Enough to get you started.”

“We’ll take 2.”

“What are you going to use them for?”

“We’ll fit them to our V-100s.”

“Can you get more grenades? We can’t spare many.”

“How many do you need? We have a source with the Guard.”

“All you can spare.”

“Can we borrow the name?”

“What name?”

“The Nauvoo Legion.”

“And get us blamed for whatever you do? Not a chance.”

“In that case, would you mind if we called ourselves The Devil’s Brigade? The Devil’s Brigade actually existed although the unit was actually known as ‘The Black Devils’. Following the end of WWII, the brigade was disbanded. Veterans of the Devil’s Brigade have been meeting each year, since 1945, in Montana.”

“We don’t care if they don’t.”

“We’ll be back in about 5-6 weeks. Be on the lookout for a shipment of 40mm belted grenades.”

o

“Send a message back to Jim and Gene. Tell them that from now on we’ll be known as The Devil’s Brigade. Also have them work with Marjorie Benson and get these guys and us a shipment of grenades for the Mark 19s. Have them send someone to pick up the Mark 19s so they can figure out how to mount them on the V-100s.”

“What do you want them to know about this group?”

“Call them the Nauvoo Legion. I don’t have any idea how many of them there are, so let’s go with what we know and say about 15.”

“I’ll suggest that they deliver the ammo to these guys and meet up with us with the delivery truck to take the two guns back to Reno. It will either have to be in Denver or Albuquerque.”

“I’ll let Jim know that this is a rush order.”

o

“Enterprises must be prepared, with specially trained troops of the hunter class, who can develop a reign of terror...leaving a trail of German corpses behind them.” With these words Winston Churchill emphasized the fact that the Allies needed to actively engage in offensive operations against the Germans. Since 1939 the Allies had been pushed back at every turn; it was time that they started pushing back. The stage was thus set for what would become the First Special Service Force.

The Force was a joint American-Canadian commando unit with separate combat and service echelons. It was activated on 20 July 1942, under Lt. Colonel Robert T. Frederick, and was based at Fort Harrison, Montana. The men selected for their rugged, outdoor backgrounds received the most rigorous training schedule (under live fire) ever undertaken by an American Army unit. They became an elite body of soldiers. This all-volunteer “shock-troop” was to parachute into German-held Norway, knock out important hydroelectric plants, perform other acts of sabotage, and then fight their way to a neutral border. They trained for nine months for the Norway Operation, taking extensive courses in raider and commando tactics and receiving intense training as paratroopers, ski troops, mountain fighters, demolition experts, amphibious forces and hand-to-hand combat experts.

Deemed impractical, the Norwegian operation was eventually cancelled, yet the Force did participate in the US landings on Kiska in the Aleutians in August 1943. Though this proved to be a bloodless victory, it gave the Force some much needed field experience.

The Force was shipped to Italy in November 1943 where it fought with distinction for nearly a year. It first went into action at Monte La Difensa in Kesselring’s Winter Line on 3 December. In this action they cleared a strategic German defensive position high atop a mountain surrounded by cliffs. The Force accomplished this in hours, where previous Divisions had tried and failed for weeks, suffering many casualties. Mountain

fighting continued at places like Monte La Remetanea, Monte Sammucro, Radicosa, Monte Majo, Monte Vischiataro and after a brief period of rest, the Anzio beachhead. It would be at Anzio that the Force's mystique would grow. Named "Die Schwartze Teufeln" (The Black Devils) by the Germans, their ferocious nighttime fighting ability would become legendary.

At Anzio, although at only half strength, they held at least ¼ of the entire beachhead until the final breakout for Rome in late spring of 1944. After being the first unit into Rome, the Force led the invasion of Southern France with the US 7th Army and fought eastward until December 1944. It was at this point that the need for a smaller, commando style, unit was deemed unnecessary and the Force was disbanded.

The movie wasn't half bad either. These were genuine American and Canadian heroes. *The Devil's Brigade* (1968), the real (several) Dirty Dozen. The attack on Monte La Difensa was the basis for the movie.

o

Jim and Gene caught up with them in Denver. They weren't about to trust transporting a half a truckload of 40mm belted grenades to anyone else and they wanted to see the Mk 19s for themselves. It also gave them a chance to sort out this Devil's Brigade nonsense and find out more about the guys in Salt Lake before they turned over the grenades.

"They didn't really have a name for their group, but did say that the Nauvoo Legion name wasn't available. We don't really know how many there are, but the three of us met about a dozen of them at John Hedges, brother's house. They didn't really seem to need much, but I think they have more equipment than munitions. Near as Gunny and I can tell, they're a group of Mormon, I don't know, Special Forces?"

"Load up the Mk 19s and we'll hit the road. We should be able to get back to Salt Lake in about 11 hours. How are you holding up big brother?"

"Haven't had to shoot anyone."

"Mandy sends her love. Nothing's going on at the farms and we're ahead of schedule on the harvest. With the extra people, we have the wood cut and bundled that we'll need until spring. That should give us enough time to hit the road."

"The ATF is really divided up in the Denver area, Jim. They have 2 field offices and an Industrial operation in Denver plus another office in Colorado Springs. All 3 of the Denver offices are in the same location at 1961 Stout Street and the operation at the Springs is at 111 South Tejon Street."

"What states are part of the Phoenix Field Division?"

“Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.”

“And Reno is part of the relocated San Francisco Field Division?”

“Right, most of our operations should be in the Phoenix Field Division.”

“That ought to drive them nuts. Ok, we’re gone; see you in about a month at home.”

o

“I’m Jim Young, are you Jim Hedges?”

“Come in.”

“I have a load for you in the delivery truck.”

“I’ll open the garage door and you can back right up to the door so we can unload. How did you do on getting us munitions?”

The M430HEDP and M383HE are in M548 (48 round) containers. We got you 50 containers of each. They’re heavy, 62 pounds per container. I assume you have a copy of FM3-22-27? If not, I have a copy on disc I can give you.”

“Jim the only thing we had trouble getting was ammo. That reminds me, I need to return the 2 M16s and the 2 .357s; I have replaced all of my weapons.”

“Borrow some more?”

“Heck no, I got mine back, the ATF is a bunch of fumbling idiots. They gave my company the contract to destroy all of seized weapons.”

“But if I know their procedures, they watch you drop the weapons into the smelting pot.”

“They do, but it’s too hot to really observe inside and they don’t see the slide that comes out and catches the weapons and deposits them outside of the smelting pot. As far as they know, everything gets melted.”

“Then, you’re gaining weapons by the truck load?”

“You know it, what do you need?”

“Metric STG58A Austrian FAL Rifles.”

“You like those? Would 100 be enough?”

“Good condition?”

"I have no idea, we cleaned them up and preserved them with Cosmoline. You can take them and figure that out for yourselves. We're hanging on to the M1As and M14s that are coming in. You'd be surprised how many there are around."

"Did you get any magazines?"

"We probably have several thousand."

"Will 4,800 rounds of 40mm be enough?"

"I'll trade you 100 FALS for every 4,800 you can provide. You can have whatever we have for magazines."

"Can you handle another 9,600 rounds of 40mm?"

"We should be able to; we have about 400 of the FAL rifles. Somebody must have imported a bunch of them before the 1986 ban went in."

"So for all 400, you'd need about 300 more cases of 40mm ammo. Man, that's a lot; I'll see what I can do. But, we'll take 100 of the FALS for now."

"Can you fit the rifles into the delivery truck? If you can, take them and owe us the grenades."

"You'll be getting a semi load one of these days, but I can't tell you when. Ok, we'll take all we can pack into the truck."

"Let me make some calls and have the weapons delivered. It will take a while, why don't the two of you check into a motel and get something to eat. Shall we say 7:30pm?"

o

"How big is a Brigade?"

"A Brigade refers to a group of several battalions, typically two to four, and directly attached supporting units (normally including at least an artillery battery and additional logistic support). It is smaller than a division and roughly equal to or a little larger than a regiment. Strength typically ranges between 1,500 and 3,500 personnel."

"We don't have that many people or weapons."

"We have enough for a Company. But we don't have artillery or any armor. The smallest unit is the fire team and a couple of those make up a squad. There are 4-5 squads to the Platoon and 2 or more, usually 4, Platoons to a Company. A typical Company is

around 150-200 people. With the weapons we have and are about to get, we could put together about 2½ Companies, or about one light Battalion.”

“Can Marjorie get us enough grenades to buy all of their weapons?”

“I don’t know. Maybe we should ask what other kinds of munitions and equipment they need. If we could put enough people together, we could always raid a depot of some kind. The Corps has two primary depots, one in Barstow and another in Albany, Georgia. It might be a challenge though, active duty military are approximately 500 (Navy & Marines). Family members living there are approximately 1,000. Retirees living in a 30 mile radius number approximately 8,000. Civilian employees number around 2,500 and Army personnel living on base are around 230 personnel and their families. In its 2005 BRAC Recommendations, DOD recommended to realign Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, CA. I don’t know if they adopted the recommendations or not.”

o

“What can you use besides grenades? We don’t know if we can get you another 300 containers.”

“We could use comm gear, about what you have with the SINCGARS and Spearheads, enough for 40 vehicles. We don’t have any LAW rockets either. We have 4 refurbished LAV-25s but no armaments or munitions.”

“Ok, then you need 4 M242 Bushmaster chain guns, 4 M2HB machineguns, 8 M240 machineguns, 4 dozen each SINCGARS and Spearheads plus munitions?”

“L8A1 smoke grenades and dispensers too.”

“If we can get that exact equipment would it replace the 300 containers of grenades?”

“How many load outs of munitions?”

“One standard load out and 1 refill.”

“Deal.”

“I’ll see what we can do.”

o

“I can see getting the comm gear and maybe the machineguns, but where on earth are we going to get any M242 chain guns?”

“The Army uses them on the Bradley Fighting Vehicle. I think the radios will be hard to get, we’ll have to talk to Marjorie and cross her palm pretty good.”

“I’d say we’re short about 375 people if we’re going to put together a Battalion.”

“I sure hope we can get this load back to Reno without being intercepted by the BATF.”

“Bite your tongue, Gene. We have 500 miles to go.”

“What could happen? We’re just making a delivery.”

“A roadblock, smartass. I’ll handle it. Help you fellas?”

“What are you hauling?”

“What would you say Gene, 400 rifles? 400 rifles and a pair of Mk-19s.”

“Would you open the back please?”

“Sure, no sweat, all you’re going to find is 400 rifles. See, what did I tell you?”

“They’re protected with Cosmoline.”

“Right, they’re for the Nevada State Defense Force, they just came out of the depot in Alabama.”

“I’ll need to see your invoice and bill of lading.”

“Gene, these guys want to see the paperwork, dig out my briefcase and get the invoice and bill of lading.”

“Where’s your briefcase?”

“Behind the seat, next to my laptop. Sorry fellas, he’s new.”

“There you go, an invoice for the Nevada State Defense Force and the bill of lading. As you can see, we’re hauling 400 STG58A Austrian FAL Rifles and 2 Mk 19 machineguns. The machineguns are at the bottom of the pile because they were loaded first. I’m sorry if we loaded it wrong, we don’t usually haul freight for others, just our grocery wholesale. This is the first time we ever picked up anything at DSA Arms.”

“Lock it back up. You take this shipment directly to Carson City.”

“You got it, thanks.”

o

“Are you sure you aren’t a politician, it was the best line of BS that I’ve heard in a long time?”

“Jim said that the BATF had roadblocks, I used an inkjet and dummied up an invoice and bill of lading.”

“I thought our goose was well done.”

“That’s why I didn’t say anything; you did the dumb act very well.”

“Where did you get a printer?”

“At the hotel, they have everything for the business traveler.”

“What about the bill of lading and the invoice?”

“I have a folder with 3,000 standard forms on that laptop. Yours does too, you just didn’t know it. Have Becky show you all of the forms and the set of maps when we get home. She and I installed a full set of road maps and topographical maps. You also have just about every form you’ll ever need. There are also logos for the Fortune 1,000 Companies.”

“When did you do all of this?”

“After they left, we started setting up everyone’s computers. I got the idea when I got the message from Jeb about the bunch of people they ran into in Salt Lake City. I’ll have to admit, I didn’t know we’d be bringing back a truckload of rifles, but I figured we’d need a bill of lading to transport the Mk 19s.”

“I was wondering where those fellas got the LAV-25s.”

“You should have asked. I’m sure they would have told you.”

“Do you think we could get Marjorie to double the order on the weapons for the Amphibs?”

“Partner, if we have enough gold, we can get anything we want.”

“Do you have Jim Hedges’ number?”

“It’s in my address book under John Hedges, why?”

“You said I should have ask, I think I will.”

“Jim? Gene Knowles. Where did you get those wheeled vehicles that we’re getting you the repair parts? Really? How much? That’s it? Yeah we ran into a roadblock about 20

miles west on I-80. No, we had all of the proper paperwork. Yes, I think we can. I'll look into the source you suggest. Thanks."

"What did he say?"

"The government apparently sells certain vehicles that they deem not worth repairing or obsolete to law enforcement agencies. They bought the LAV-25s using a strawman with the Salt Lake City PD. They had to repair them and replace the entire drive trains and wheels. Now all they need are the radios, weapons and ammo. They bought them as scrap steel and he claimed that there were more available."

"If you want to try and get 4 LAV-25s, I'll work out something with Marge. Do you have any idea what the load out is on a LAV-25?"

"I wrote it down, hang on. Let's see, 420 rounds of 25mm, 1,320 rounds of 7.62 and 16 L8A1 smoke grenades, plus one M242 25mm chain gun, 2 M240 machineguns and 2 M239 grenade turrets. They also have 2 VHF SINCGARS Radios, 1 PCRS, 3 VHF AN/PRC68s and 3 antennas."

"In that case, we'll have to find a way to mount the 2 Mk 19s on the V-100s. Ask Marge about that too."

o

"You want WHAT?"

"Sixty SINCGARS, 60 Spearheads, 60 antennas, 8 M242s, 16 M240s, 2 mounts for Mk 19s, and 8 munitions loads for an LAV-25 or Bradley IFV."

"How many AH-64s?"

"None of us can fly a helicopter. I need enough for 4 LAV-25s at our location and everything else in Salt Lake City."

"This is going to cost you; do you have any idea of the risk I'll be running getting that much stuff?"

"The only question we have is, Can you do it?"

"If you give me a little time, yes. The consumables aren't nearly as hard to get as the hardware. You don't really need that much 7.62 belted ammo anyway. You still have the last shipment you hijacked. Where are you getting LAV-25s?"

"Scrapped, they don't have drive trains or any weapons. In fact, they don't have much of anything. The armor shell and hulls are watertight, but we're going to have to rebuild them from the ground up."

"I can tell you where to buy tires and some of the components on the civilian market, will that help?"

"What about the engines, transmission and differentials?"

"You can contract Detroit Diesel and Allison. I'll have to check on the other things. This is going to take at least a month, maybe longer."

"What kind of expenses will you have?"

"I don't have that many favors owed; I'm only a Staff Sergeant. The weapons alone will probably take about 24 ounces of gold and the radios another 24. A lot of people are going to need to shuffle a lot of paper."

"How about I just give you 120 gold Eagles, would that do it all?"

"I can get everything you need in about 3 weeks. Hell, I'll even get you tires and wheels, but you'll still need the engines and transmissions."

"What about the consoles?"

"We'll figure something out; you only need 4, right?"

"The people in Utah already have their vehicles up and running. They didn't say anything about consoles, so I think all they need is radios, weapons and munitions."

"What are you going to be up against?"

"That's difficult to say, Marge. It depends on whether the ATF brings in the Army or Marines."

"For the kind of money involved, I may add a few things you need; it will depend on what I can get. If I spend it all on greasing palms, then what?"

"Let us know, we possibly can come up with more. That all depends on what you end up with."

o

"This is Jim Hedges, everything arrived, how did you manage that?"

"It wasn't easy, but our Sergeant proved to be very resourceful. Do you have everything you need?"

"And then some. When will you be here?"

“It will be another month; our people are still on the road. They’re done in Phoenix and headed to Vegas.”

“How are you coming on your vehicles?”

“We’re just putting on the finishing touches. They look practically new. We ended up putting those two units you provided us on the old vehicles.”

“There has been a lot of unrest around the country. I don’t know if we can hold off much longer. We believe that all hell is about to break loose.”

“We managed to pick up about 50 additional people, but I’m afraid we’re only ¼ of the strength we wanted to be.”

“That’s about half of our size, too, if my math is right. As a combined group, we’d have 10 heavy vehicles and 600 on the ground?”

“Right. And with our inside people, we’d be able to monitor the other fellas communications.”

“You have the frequency hopping setups?”

“I’ll send you a CD. Did you get Iridium phones?”

“That’s our ace in the hole isn’t it?”

“Until they figure it out. NSA probably monitors them all of the time anyway.”

“How are you going to get your equipment here?”

“Semi. We’re painting a couple of tractors up to conform to the standard painting scheme. The older vehicles will stay here to provide security for the farms, so we’ll only need a couple of tractor-trailer rigs.”

“What did you do about those chips?”

“We have spares and papers to go with them. We had that in place before the government scammed the public.”

“We don’t have anything like that.”

“Do you have pets? A man really should protect his animals with the AVID microchips, you know.”

“Really? We have a lot of dogs and cats; we’ll look into it immediately.”

o

Interesting conversation. If you had an idea what they were talking about to begin with, it wasn't hard to translate. Anything that couldn't be covered with open communications was handled on the Internet using encrypted messages. Jim followed up his conversation with Jim Hedges with a message explaining how they went about securing the false identities. He reasoned that with the other group being in the Utah Capitol, they could probably access most things, and surely they had a computer programmer. Their man in Carson City could also provide the backdoor access codes to the federal databases. Every time the feds tightened their security on the databases, they created more holes, go figure.

The BATF had declared Salt Lake City cleansed. They'd seized hundreds of weapons and sent them all to be melted down. The ranks of the BATF had swelled; there was enough work around the country to keep them busy for years. They were concentrating on the states with the most liberal firearms laws, but a lot of weapons had been stolen. They hadn't expect this kind of backlash and did the normal thing for the feds, hired more agents. They had decided to save Alaska for last, the few agents they had up there disappeared.

The Nauvoo Legion was following the BATF around and visiting with the victims. Many turned into recruits when they got their weapons back. Hedges sent Young a message and they started doing the same in Reno and around Nevada. Gene bought the company that had the contract to melt down the seized weapons and the folks from Salt Lake made a trip to modify the smelting pot. Working in concert, the two groups were about ready. However, they didn't have the full details of the recon mission or the contacts that had been set up in the other cities.

Salt Lake City, Denver, Albuquerque and Phoenix were the major cities in the BATF's Phoenix Field Division. Las Vegas and Reno came under the jurisdiction of the San Francisco Field Division, now located in Sacramento. While it wouldn't be totally fair to say that there were differences in the Divisions, California was notorious for the stupid gun laws they had enacted in Sacramento. All because of the shooting of some children on a school ground in Stockton. On January 17, 1989, Patrick Purdy fired an AK-47 at random at Cleveland Elementary School, killing five children (aged between 6 and 9) and wounding 29 others and one teacher, before taking his own life. The incident inspired a rash of legislation restricting the purchase of assault weapons. There was nothing new about school shootings, just the reaction of the California legislators. In typical fashion, the California Assembly overreacted. That didn't prevent another shooting in 1992.

The feds could hire more agents to take away your guns but they couldn't hire Border Patrol agents to protect the southern border. Of course that had changed and the military was now charged with the task. The southern border was sealed, but what about Canada? The Canadians had never been a problem before.

Jim and Becky Part II – Chapter 18 – The Others

“Welcome back, long trip?”

“Five weeks was more like a lifetime, Jim.”

“How did you do?”

“We made contacts in all of the cities. A lot of the population is angry, but more so in Arizona. Those people down there are a lot like the people in Nevada, the gun laws in Arizona were pretty loose. You know that the BATF won’t accept an Indian Identity card for gun purchases don’t you? Most of the native peoples down there are more than upset with that. Of course, that pre-dates this problem and that new law has only made things worse.”

“What about New Mexico, they also have a large Indian population.”

“Hard to say, we didn’t hook up with any of them in Albuquerque. There are local militias in all of the major cities. The best way to find them is to follow the BATF around and talk to the people they bust. I’d say that there is a company strength militia unit in all of the cities.”

“The guys in Salt Lake are up to a light Battalion. We’re at about 200, but we have enough weapons for double than many people, possibly more. There are a lot of California Sheeple’s in Reno.”

“There are a lot of Californian gun nuts in Vegas. The same thing goes for the Phoenix area. It’s easy to tell where people in Mesa are from, just look at their fence. The people from the Midwest have a 3’ fence and the Californian’s a 6’ fence. What are those, LAV-25s?”

“We bought them as scrap and re-equipped them, what do you think?”

“Better armor than the V-100s.”

“Twice as thick. They should stop everything through 20mm and possibly 30mm. I’m telling you though, if the BATF brings in the Army, we could have problems. Marge had a surprise for us so the Apaches won’t be such a big problem. Those M1A2SEPs are way beyond us.”

“Why aren’t the choppers a problem?”

“She got us some Stinger missiles. We’re in the process of mounting them on the LAV-25s. We’ll be mounting 8 Stingers per vehicle, 2 canisters of 4 missiles each, and we’ll have 8 reloads. It will be equivalent to a LAV-AD. I figure that unless they bring in a big

force of attack helicopters, our air defense will be ok. We supplied the guys in Salt Lake with the same setup.”

“The people in Phoenix have artillery. Not the heavy stuff, but they gathered up some of those 105mm howitzers and have several truckloads of ammo. They said it was a standard battery of 6 M101A1 guns. They have 5-ton trucks to tow them and haul their ammo. We could use the V-100s for Command and Control and field 8 of the LAV-25s between us and Salt Lake.”

“What about Albuquerque?”

“That’s an infantry outfit. The biggest thing they have is a mortar platoon with 81mm mortars. They all seemed to favor the M16 type rifles.”

“Las Vegas?”

“Two companies of infantry with assorted 5.56×45mm and 7.62×51mm weapons.”

“Denver?”

“That’s another battery of 105mm field howitzers plus an infantry company. All together, we have about a Brigade with 2 artillery batteries, 1 mortar platoon and 2 platoons of the LAV-25s. Maybe 1,500 plus any new recruits since we left.”

“How are you communicating with everyone?”

“Internet using the encryption software. It’s not very good, but it was the easiest to set up. We told everyone to get the Iridium phones and some of them have some stolen SINCGARS radios.”

“Which outfit is the best equipped?”

“Probably Salt Lake. They have 1 platoon of LAV-25s and 2 companies of infantry by now. We have 1 platoon of LAV-25s and 1 company of infantry. However, our communications are the best of any of the units and we have the V-100 armored cars. If we upgrade them with full sets of radios, they’d be perfect C³ vehicles.”

“We’ll talk to Joe about equipping them with the Kenwood TS2000s and CBs.”

“A Brigade needs a Brigadier, who are we going to get?”

“I suppose we could give Ron Matthews a field promotion.”

“Twenty-one states now have State Defense Forces, while almost every other state is considering their creation. States with State Defense Forces include Alabama, Alaska, California, Indiana, Louisiana, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Mon-

tana, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia and Washington. We shined on the BATF inspection people on I-80 about a Nevada State Defense Force. According to one web site, the President can do just about anything he wants with all of the Executive Orders that have been issued over the years.”

“Do you have a list?”

“Yeah, and it’s pretty disturbing:

“EO 10990 allows the government to take over all modes of transportation and control of highways and seaports.

“EO 10995 allows the government to seize and control the communication media.

“EO 10997 allows the government to take over all electrical power, gas, petroleum, fuels and minerals.

“EO 10998 allows the government to take over all food resources and farms.

“EO 11000 allows the government to mobilize civilians into work brigades under government supervision.

“EO 11001 allows the government to take over all health, education and welfare functions.

“EO 11002 designates the Postmaster General to operate a national registration of all persons.

“EO 11003 allows the government to take over all airports and aircraft, including commercial aircraft.

“EO 11004 allows the Housing and Finance Authority to relocate communities, build new housing with public funds, designate areas to be abandoned, and establish new locations for populations.

“EO 11005 allows the government to take over railroads, inland waterways and public storage facilities.

“EO 11051 specifies the responsibility of the Office of Emergency Planning and gives authorization to put all Executive Orders into effect in times of increased international tensions and economic or financial crisis.

“EO 11310 grants authority to the Department of Justice to enforce the plans set out in Executive Orders, to institute industrial support, to establish judicial and legislative liai-

son, to control all aliens, to operate penal and correctional institutions, and to advise and assist the President.

“Without Congressional approval, the President now has the power to transfer whole populations to any part of the country, the power to suspend the Press and to force a national registration of all persons. The President, in essence, has dictatorial powers never provided to him under the Constitution. The President has the power to suspend the Constitution and the Bill of Rights in a real or perceived emergency. Unlike Lincoln and Roosevelt, these powers are not derived from a wartime need, but from any crisis, domestic or foreign, hostile or economic. Roosevelt created extraordinary measures during the Great Depression, but any President faced with a similar, or lesser, economic crisis now has extraordinary powers to assume dictatorial status.

“EO 11049 assigns emergency preparedness function to federal departments and agencies, consolidating 21 operative Executive Orders issued over a fifteen-year period.

“EO 11921 allows the Federal Emergency Preparedness Agency to develop plans to establish control over the mechanisms of production and distribution, of energy sources, wages, salaries, credit and the flow of money in US financial institution in any undefined national emergency. It also provides that when the President declares a state of emergency, Congress cannot review the action for six months.

“EO 12148 created the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that is to interface with the Department of Defense for civil defense planning and funding. An ‘emergency czar’ was appointed. FEMA has only spent about 6 percent of its budget on national emergencies; the bulk of their funding has been used for the construction of secret underground facilities to assure continuity of government in case of a major emergency, foreign or domestic.

“EO 12656 appointed the National Security Council as the principal body that should consider emergency powers. This allows the government to increase domestic intelligence and surveillance of US citizens and would restrict the freedom of movement within the United States and granted the government the right to isolate large groups of civilians. The National Guard could be federalized to seal all borders and take control of US air space and all ports of entry. Many of the figures in the Iran-Contra scandal were part of this emergency contingent, including Marine Colonel Oliver North.

“The Federal Emergency Management Agency has broad powers in every aspect of the nation. General Frank Salzedo, chief of FEMA’s Civil Security Division stated in a 1983 conference that he saw FEMA’s role as a ‘new frontier in the protection of individual and governmental leaders from assassination, and of civil and military installations from sabotage and/or attack, as well as prevention of dissident groups from gaining access to US opinion, or a global audience in times of crisis’.

“The Violent Crime Control Act of 1991 provides additional powers to the President of the United States, allowing the suspension of the Constitution and Constitutional rights

of Americans during a 'drug crisis'. It provides for the construction of detention camps, seizure of property, and military control of populated areas. This, teamed with the Executive Orders of the President, enables Orwellian prophecies to rest on whoever occupies the White House. The power provided by these 'laws' allows suspension of the Constitution and the rights guaranteed in the Bill of Rights during any civil disturbances, major demonstrations and strikes and allows the military to implement government ordered movements of civilian populations at state and regional levels, the arrest of certain unidentified segments of the population, and the imposition of Martial Law.

"When the Constitution of the United States was framed it placed the exclusive legislative authority in the hands of Congress and with the President. Article I, Section 1 of the United States Constitution is concise in its language, 'All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.' That is no longer true. The Bill of Rights protected Americans against loss of freedoms. That is no longer true. The Constitution provided for a balanced separation of powers. That is no longer applicable.

"Then they passed the USA PATRIOT Act, and renewed it. We all know that FEMA became part of Homeland Security, but the Hurricane forced Michael Brown to resign. Then Congress got hold of FEMA and, well, you know the rest of that story. They've eroded the Constitution down to the point that the founding fathers wouldn't recognize it."

"All I ask was if you had a list. You don't need to lecture me on how corrupt the government has become."

"I was just reminding you how we got in the position where we're going to war with the United States of America, the most powerful military in the world."

"And I will point out that at one time the Roman Legions were the most powerful Army in the world. Rome fell despite that. Our system is still viable; we just need to fix it. I don't know when corrupt became a synonym for politician, probably at the beginning of time. However, these people need to be replaced and I can't see this country surviving waiting for us to use the ballot box to make the fix."

"We have to assemble this Army of ours, where would you suggest we do that?"

"C³ is here so how about central Nevada? We can bust into Hawthorne and resupply everyone. Then we can hit Las Vegas and follow the reverse route that you scouted out."

"Then where do we assemble, Area 51?"

"Yeah, right. How about on the western shore of Walker Lake north of Hawthorne on US 95?"

“We need some kind of cover.”

“How about some sort of reunion? We could call it the reunion of the new Devil’s Brigade.”

“You want to advertise? Are you crazy?”

“We could call it a reenactment on the battle at Anzio.”

“Yeah, that would make sense... Anzio was an amphibious landing.”

◦

During the early morning hours of 22 January 1944, troops of the Fifth Army swarmed ashore on a fifteen-mile stretch of Italian beach near the prewar resort towns of Anzio and Nettuno. The landings were carried out so flawlessly and German resistance was so light that British and American units gained their first day's objectives by noon, moving three to four miles inland by nightfall. The ease of the landing and the swift advance were noted by one paratrooper of the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, who recalled that D-day at Anzio was sunny and warm, making it very hard to believe that a war was going on and that he was in the middle of it.

The location of the Allied landings, thirty miles south of Rome and fifty-five miles northwest of the main line of resistance running from Minturno on the Tyrrhenian Sea to Ortona on the Adriatic, surprised local German commanders, who had been assured by their superiors that an amphibious assault would not take place during January or February. Thus when the landing occurred the Germans were unprepared to react offensively. Within a week, however, as Allied troops consolidated their positions and prepared to break out of the beachhead, the Germans gathered troops to eliminate what Adolf Hitler called the “Anzio abscess.” The next four months would see some of the most savage fighting of World War II.

◦

“That should work, the Devil’s Brigade fought at Anzio. Will we have to rename the Brigade?”

“Nah, it was good enough for Hollywood.”

“When are we going to do this?”

“It’s going to be a lot of work right?”

“You could say that, I suppose.”

“Then Labor Day seems like the perfect time. We’ll make it a labor of love.”

Labor Day 2010 was Monday September 6th. They had 2 weeks to put out the word and get everyone assembled. They had a Brigade sans armor. Anyone who was uncertain of their role in the upcoming series of engagements had been referred to FM7-15, the Army Universal Task List and FM7-7, The Mechanized Infantry Platoon and Squad (APC). The only thing their infantry squads were missing was a person with a M249. According to doctrine, they either need full auto rifles, e.g., M16A1/A3 or a M249. Weapons with 3 round burst, e.g., M16A2/A4 didn't qualify. However, the FAL rifles were full auto capable so they substituted at least one FAL in every squad. Improvise, adapt and overcome.

To improve the illusion, they bought M1 steel pots and liners. The rifles were wrong, but it was a reenactment. Most of the 1,500+ people looked like US soldiers from the Vietnam era, not soldiers from WW II.

They got the attention of the BATF, too. US military weapons from WWII and beyond were generally semi-automatic actions. Those smug agents from Sacramento were probably rubbing their hands together contemplating seizing a couple of truckloads of weapons. No doubt the government thought they had the American public bluffed, after all, they all had MP-5s, etc. People started to arrive on Friday, September 3rd. By Sunday evening, they were seeing all kinds of interesting things, but no weapons. There were 8 LAV-25s, 2 V-100s, 2 batteries of 105mm field howitzers and all manner of demilled hardware.

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“How many BATF agents do you think there are?”

“Not enough to go around, Jim.”

“How are they armed?”

“Most of them have pistols and MP-5s. I saw a few M-24s and some shotguns. It hardly seems worth the effort.”

“Hey you two, Owen and I sort of promised those guys from Salt Lake some of the MP-5s. However, Ron said that if there were any of the MP-5/10s, we should grab them.”

“How can you tell the difference quickly?”

“Plastic magazines. I looked and it appears that some of them have the MP-5/10s.”

“I'd suggest that you have a talk with Ron and explain that they can have all of the 9mm stuff and we'll take the 10mm stuff. They probably don't have any 10mm ammo anyway.”

“Don’t turn around and look, but they’re coming.”

“Who?”

“The feds.”

“Pass the word to standby. Gunny, Owen and you keep an eye on our people. Gene and I need to know if anyone isn’t cutting it. We’ll pack them up and send them back to guard the farms. I sure wish I could have talked Becky out of coming.”

“She looks like a regular GI Jane all decked out in that ALICE gear with her Rambo knife, FAL rifle and Colt Gold Cup.”

“Did someone make sure she has a vest?”

“We gave the Interceptor OTV to the women. Everyone else has the Point Blank MRV, used by the LAPD SWAT Teams. We have Level III and the ladies level IV.”

“I wondered why it said POLICE.”

“That was what the supplier had.”

“I understand but the feds body armor is marked POLICE, too.”

“What kind of ammo did we issue?”

“M993 and M995 AP.”

“Say when.”

“Anytime in the past 2 minutes would have been fine.”

“Pass the command to fire, firearms only, we want their weapons.”

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“Did anyone get a body count?”

“Ours or theirs?”

“Both.”

“We lost about 20 dead and 50 wounded. They lost their entire force, at the moment, the count is 132, but we haven’t finished counting.”

“Weapons?”

“About a dozen are unserviceable but we got 40 of the MP-5/10 and 10mm pistols. The Guys from Salt Lake took the rest.”

“Hang onto the junk for parts. What about magazines and ammo?”

“It looks like they had 10 mags apiece for the MP-5/10s and 5 each for their pistols. They’re all using the Winchester 175 grain ammo.”

“Ok, pass out the MP-5/10s along with a 10mm pistol to anyone who isn’t carrying a Main Battle Rifle. Try to retire as many of the M16s as we can. And reissue a full battle load of the AP to everyone with a rifle.”

“What do you want to do with the bodies?”

“Transport them back to the farms, bury ours and put the other groups’ people on ice. Check with each unit commander and see if they want to transport their dead back home. Where’s Becky?”

“The last I saw her, she was trying to patch up some of the wounded.”

“Don’t any of the units have a doctor?”

“A couple of them do, their Combat Lifesavers, Corpsman and Medics are working with the doctors.”

“Use the delivery trucks to transport the wounded to the farms. Send the doctors and nurses with them and keep the Corpsman and Medics.”

“I can tell you right now that your wife won’t go, and you know how damned sharp that Bowie of hers is.”

“Let her stay, she’s our only Medic. Now what about Hawthorne?”

“Mostly civilians. BRAC announced that they wanted to close the place, but it hasn’t happened yet. The only downside might be if there are Marines located there planning on live firing exercises.”

“What kind of equipment would they most likely have?”

“If anything, 155mm artillery. They live fire everything from grenades to artillery.”

“All we really want are the War reserves. But if we can pick up any heavy artillery, do we have the people who can use it?”

“The two artillery batteries do, or so I was told.”

“Try to avoid any active duty military casualties, if we hurt a single active duty soldier that will force the military to react. Pass the word and let’s move out.”

“You didn’t answer my question about the ATF bodies.”

“Strip them of anything useful and leave them lay.”

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Breaking News... A planned reenactment of the Anzio landing on the west coast of Italy during WWII to commemorate the part played by the joint Canadian American special forces unit known as the Black Devil’s ended in a surprising fashion when the participants attacked and killed a force of 154 BATF agents who were attending the reenactment in an effort to seize any illegal firearms. The attack, which occurred on the western shore of Walker Lake north of Hawthorne, Nevada, was followed about 2 hours later by an attack on the closing Hawthorne Army Depot and the Hawthorne Test Range. The Depot is a Tier II cadre site that maintains additional war reserve stocks. Tier II facilities store War Reserve ammunition to be used after the first 30 days. They are partially staffed in peacetime, but would increase staffing when needed. In addition, the group seized 2 batteries of M198 155mm Field Howitzers that were at the Hawthorne Range for training exercises the following day.

None of the Marines that were at Hawthorne for the exercise were engaged as they were attending a Labor Day picnic in the town of Hawthorne. Sources tell CNN that a substantial portion of the Tier II reserves was captured. There was no immediate indication of where the attacking force has gone but the authorities have implemented a wide-ranging search of the immediate area. According to a Reno reporter, the group headed south on US 95, and as of this hour, no sign of the group has been found. The reenactors seized the weapons of the federal agents, and we are awaiting comment from the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms. Aside from sporadic attacks on BATF agents around the country, this is the first major action against the BATF since Congress enacted 18 USC § 932 in January of this year.

The reporter for the Reno Gazette-Journal assigned to cover the event indicated that organizers promised him an exclusive in exchange for not revealing names. He also indicated that he would be embedded with the unit, known as The Devils Brigade, and would file periodic reports with his editors. In his first report, filed after the attack in Hawthorne, he indicated that the Brigade simply defended itself when the BATF agents attacked. The bodies of the federal agents were stripped of weapons but personal effects weren’t touched. The Governor of Nevada stated that he would activate the Nevada National Guard if authorities indicated that they needed help with the situation.

“Crap, if they activate the Guard, we’ll be up against tanks.”

“Sit that reporter down and give him the background on why we’re doing what we’re doing. You boys may not remember, it was a long time ago, but Fidel Castro had extensive support from the American public when he was a rebel in the hills fighting Batista. Maybe it’s just our heritage, but many people in the US have a soft spot in their hearts for rebels. They haven’t labeled us terrorists yet, but they will. Let’s get a jump on them.”

“How long to you plan to stay here?”

“Maybe for a week or so, they’ll never think to look here. I’ll get the reporter.”

This is a first in a series of reports on the activities of The Devil’s Brigade. Interestingly most of the members of the Brigade are veterans, going all the way back to the Vietnam War. Others are retired law enforcement officers. The group indicates that they have a clear agenda, the repeal of all firearm laws and a return to Constitutional law as envisioned by the framers of the Constitution. They steadfastly insist that the right to keep and bear arms is an individual right. They claim that the founding fathers provided two means by which the government could be held in check, the ballot box and the 2nd Amendment. They quote Jefferson, Henry and others indicating that the clear intent of the founders was a totally free society that had the power vested in the states.

As I indicated in an earlier report, these people were prepared and waiting for the government agents to attack. When they first assembled in the area of Walker Lake, no weapons were evident. A BATF agent, who pronounced them as demilled showpieces, inspected the artillery pieces they had. On Sunday evening after sundown, the weapons came out of their hiding places. The force is primarily equipped with 7.62x51mm caliber rifles as opposed to the M16s. They have a surprising array of equipment. I was told that the LAV-25s they have are junked shells they purchased from the government and restored. From what I was allowed to see, the units are fully restored and modified to handle the Stinger missiles, first made famous when used against Russian forces in Afghanistan. They describe the vehicles as homemade LAV-ADs.

With the seizure of 2 batteries of 6 towed 155mm artillery pieces, this unit is an imposing force.

Based on my observations, I would advise the Governor of Nevada not to call out the Nevada National Guard. If I recall correctly, the Guard consists of an air transport unit, an armor unit and a signals unit. Thanks to the raid on the Hawthorne facility, the Devil’s Brigade is now equipped with the latest generation TOW missiles, which they claim are capable of destroying an Abrams tank. Each of their LAV-ADs is equipped with 8 of the Stingers, making an air assault an unlike success. Wake up America, the patriots are taking their country back. This is Jason Andes reporting from somewhere in the US with the Devil’s Brigade.

“Nice piece, go ahead and file it. You can use your laptop and can connect it to one of our Iridium phones.”

“Thanks fellas. If I don’t end up in jail, I may get the Pulitzer Prize for this.”

“Do they issue it posthumously? Even though you’re a non-combatant, you stand a good chance of getting killed.”

“Where is it written that all reporters have to be non-combatants?”

“I think that it’s custom.”

“You give me a 10mm pistol and an MP-5/10 and I’d be willing to start a new custom. It wouldn’t be the first time a reporter took up arms.” (Joe Galloway was armed when they landed in LZ X-Ray in the Battle of Ia Drang.)

“Do you want to join the cause?”

“No, I just want to protect myself.”

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They were hiding in the open at the Hawthorne Range. The depot was well supplied with desert camouflage netting and they were keeping their engines off and eating MREs to avoid heat signatures. Hawthorne was mostly an ammo dump so while they increased their store of munitions, they didn’t really gain much equipment. The next target would be Las Vegas. In Las Vegas, the BATF had 3 offices collocated at 600 South Las Vegas Boulevard. It was at the corner of South Las Vegas Boulevard and East Bonneville Avenue. People around the world know Las Vegas Boulevard as ‘The Strip’. They couldn’t engage the feds in the middle of town; they’d have to draw them out.

“Jason, we need a favor.”

“Tell me and I do what I can.”

“Our next point of attack will in the Las Vegas area. We don’t want to engage the BATF on the Strip. Would you be willing to suggest in an article that you think we may be moving to the Red Rock Canyon Conservation Area?”

“Only if it’s true.”

“That’s where we’re going.”

“Why would you want me to report that?”

“Like I said, we don’t want to invade the Strip. If you don’t want to report it, we can make an anonymous call to the Las Vegas Review-Journal and the Las Vegas Sun.”

“Maybe you’d better do that, if I report that you’re going to hole up in that Conservation Area, and you turn it into an attack, everyone will know how deeply involved I am in supporting your cause.”

“I don’t suppose you have the phone numbers, do you?”

“On my laptop, I’ll get them for you, but one of you will have to make the calls.”

We didn’t make out as well at Hawthorne as we hoped. Apparently they started to implement the recommendation of the 2005 BRAC report. In its 2005 BRAC Recommendations, DOD recommended to close Hawthorne Army Depot, NV. It would relocate Storage and Demilitarization functions to Tooele Army Depot, UT. Tooele is a TIER 1, Industrial Operations Command, ammunition storage site, responsible for storing training ammunition and war reserve ammunition. Tooele's Ammunition Equipment Directorate designs and manufactures ammunition peculiar equipment (APE) for all of DOD. TEAD also supports a non-tactical generator and rail equipment repair facility located at Hill Air Force Base, Utah.

The Army has adopted a ‘tiered’ ammunition depot concept to reduce infrastructure, eliminate static non-required ammunition stocks, decrease manpower requirements, increase efficiencies, and permit the Army to manage a smaller stockpile. The tiered depot concept reduces the number of active storage sites and makes efficiencies possible. A ‘tier 1’ installation will support a normal/full-up activity level with a stockage configuration of primarily required stocks and minimal non-required stocks requiring demilitarization. Normal activity includes daily receipts/issues of training stocks, storage of war reserve stocks required in contingency operations and additional war reserve stocks to augment lower level tier installation power projection capabilities. Installations at this activity level receive requisite levels of storage support, surveillance, inventory, maintenance and demilitarization.

“I don’t believe that I know where Tooele Army Depot is.”

“West southwest of Salt Lake City. Talk to the Utah guys, they’ll fill you in.”

“So you see, Jason, Tooele had extensive security. They had everything we needed, but we didn’t have a big enough force to take it. I’m not sure what Jim and Gene are planning, but I expect they’ll hit Tooele to resupply before they head back to Reno.”

“Is Salt lake City the last target?”

“I think that they have one more in mind, but neither has said.”

“What I don’t understand is how you’re going to move the LAVs and artillery to Las Vegas.”

“Military convoy. We’re planning on going right down US 95 in plain sight. It wouldn’t be the first time convoys have moved by road from the Hawthorne Depot. We’ll be discarding the WWII gear and adopting current issue military gear, except for the weapons. We have enough of the M16s to equip a guard detail for the shipment. Some of the people from the Nevada contingent can cut genuine looking military orders. The people we can’t move in trucks, due to space limitations, will move in their own vehicles over the course of a day.”

“It sounds to me like you have everything covered.”

“A battle plan never survives the first contact with the opposition. We didn’t plan on having as many casualties as we had. We lost 70 people, 20 killed. We can’t afford to trade bodies with the feds, even at a 7 to 1 rate. Some of the wounded will be patched up and rejoin us, but before this is over, there are going to be a lot more dead on both sides. The BATF aren’t complete idiots, you know. We’ll have to use a different battle plan for each engagement and keep them off their footing.”

“When are you going to leak your location to the Las Vegas newspapers?”

“After we are moved and in place. It will be a straight ambush, but we won’t attack them until they have all of their people in place and are waiting to ambush us.”

“You won’t be using the artillery?”

“Probably not in Las Vegas, that may not come until Phoenix. The expectations are that they’ll come out in force in Arizona. At the moment, they don’t really know our strength, so in Las Vegas, they’re not likely to have more than 500 people. Once we take out that large of a group, they’ll have to know that they’re really up against a full Brigade and that the title isn’t ceremonial. I like to recommend that when you write up the story of the Las Vegas ambush, you suggest to the Governor’s to stay out of the fight unless they want to join their state defense forces with our group.”

“What are you going to do if the Army or Marines get involved?”

“I don’t think they will.”

“Why not?”

“The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs is General Russel L. Honoré. You remember him from New Orleans, right? They called him the ‘Ragin’ Cajun’. This is his last position before he retires. I doubt he’ll want to be remembered as the General who destroyed the American Patriot Movement.”

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A large, slow-growing volcanic bulge in western Oregon is attracting the attention of seismologists who say that the rising ground could be the beginnings of a volcano or simply magma shifting underground. Scientists said that the 100 square-mile bulge, first discovered by satellite, poses no immediate threat to nearby residents.

"It is perfectly safe for anyone over there," said Michael Lisowski, geophysicist at the United States Geological Survey's Cascades Volcano Observatory in Vancouver, Washington. The bulge is rising at a rate of about 1.4 inches per year, according to a report issued by the US Geological Survey. The bulge is in a sparsely populated area 3 miles southwest of South Sister, a mountain 25 miles west of Bend, Oregon.

Lisowski said the unnamed bulge was created because of a big cavity, estimated to be about 4.5 miles below the surface that is filling with fluid. The fluid is likely magma, but could also be water. It was described in the report as a lake 1 mile across and 65 feet deep. The bulge is a bare patch of land with no residents, and anyone in the area would not be able to see, feel or smell anything, seismologists said.

South Sister is one of three volcanic peaks called The Three Sisters, which are part of the Cascade mountain range. The range includes four of the 18 most active volcanoes in the United States, according to the US Geological Survey. The South Sister probably erupted last time about 2,000 years ago, seismologists said.

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New Washington...

"What do you intend to do about the attack on the ATF, General?"

"That's a civilian matter, sir. Nothing."

"They probably cleaned out the Depot."

"Yes sir, but we're prohibited by Posse Comitatus from acting as law enforcement except in the case of insurrection."

"I want you to preposition troops in the San Francisco BATF Field Division."

"We can do that, but what do you want us to do? As I told you, sir, the US military isn't law enforcement and can't assume that posture. Permit me to quote:

"Section 1385 of Title 18, United States Code (USC), states:

"Whoever, except in cases and under circumstances expressly authorized by the Constitution or Act of Congress, willfully uses any part of the Army or Air Force as a Posse Comitatus or otherwise to execute the laws shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than two years, or both.

“The PCA does not apply to the US Coast Guard in peacetime or to the National Guard in Title 32 or State Active Duty status. The substantive prohibitions of the Posse Comitatus Act (PCA) were extended to all the services with the enactment of Title 10 USC, Section 375. As required by Title 10 USC, Section 375 the secretary of defense issued Department of Defense Directive 5525.5, which precludes members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marine Corps from direct participation in a search, seizure, arrest, or other similar activity unless participation in such activity by such member is otherwise authorized by law.

“The PCA generally prohibits US military personnel from direct participation in law enforcement activities. Some of those law enforcement activities would include interdicting vehicles, vessels, and aircraft; conducting surveillance, searches, pursuit and seizures; or making arrests on behalf of civilian law enforcement authorities. Prohibiting direct military involvement in law enforcement is in keeping with long-standing US law and policy limiting the military’s role in domestic affairs.

“The United States Congress has enacted a number of exceptions to the PCA that allow the military, in certain situations, to assist civilian law enforcement agencies in enforcing the laws of the US. The most common example is counter drug assistance (Title 10 USC, Sections 371-381). Other examples include:

“The Insurrection Act (Title 10 USC, Sections 331-335). This act allows the president to use US military personnel at the request of a state legislature or governor to suppress insurrections. It also allows the president to use federal troops to enforce federal laws when rebellion against the authority of the US makes it impracticable to enforce the laws of the US.

“Assistance in the case of crimes involving nuclear materials (Title 18 USC, Section 831). This statute permits DOD personnel to assist the Justice Department in enforcing prohibitions regarding nuclear materials, when the attorney general and the secretary of defense jointly determine that an ‘emergency situation’ exists that poses a serious threat to US interests and is beyond the capability of civilian law enforcement agencies.

“Emergency situations involving chemical or biological weapons of mass destruction (Title 10 USC, Section 382). When the attorney general and the secretary of defense jointly determine that an ‘emergency situation’ exists that poses a serious threat to US interests and is beyond the capability of civilian law enforcement agencies. DOD personnel may assist the Justice Department in enforcing prohibitions regarding biological or chemical weapons of mass destruction.

“Military support to civilian law enforcement is carried out in strict compliance with the Constitution and US laws and under the direction of the president and secretary of defense.

“Has the Governor of Nevada asked you to suppress an insurrection? Have any nuclear, chemical or biological weapons been stolen?”

“No.”

“I can preposition troops, but until you have a Governor’s request or NBC materials are involved, I cannot involve the military.”

“Nevertheless, preposition the 82nd Airborne.”

“Yes sir, where?”

“Nellis Air Force Base.”

“Yes sir, the entire Division?”

“Down to the last man or woman.”

“Sir, the 82nd Airborne Division consists of: 1st Brigade-504 PIR, 2nd Brigade-325 AIR, 3rd Brigade-505 PIR, 82nd Aviation Brigade, DIVARTY, DISCOM, 313th MI Bn, 307th Eng Bn, 82nd Soldier Support Bn, 82nd MP Co, Advanced Airborne School, 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 14th Air Support Operations Squadron and the ANG 53rd Infantry Brigade. General Caldwell won’t like this.”

“I don’t care.”

“Yes sir.”

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“General Caldwell, General Honoré. By order of the President, you are hereby ordered to move your entire command, including the ANG, to Nellis Air Force Base. You can move the personnel from the Advance Airborne School in support of the 1st and 2nd Brigades.”

“What’s this all about sir?”

“The President thinks he’s above the law, General. It will make a nice exercise and you can let your people have an occasional pass to visit Vegas.”

“How long do I have sir?”

“Four days. You’d better hurry.”

“Yes sir. What is this all about sir?”

“Probably those people who killed those BATF agents.”

“Sir, there can’t be many of them; one Parachute Infantry Regiment should be enough.”

“Do you like this President?”

“Well...”

“Move the troops General, he’ll never get reelected.”

“Sir, if the Air Force can assign some C-17s, we can be moved in 72 hours.”

“I’ll send the C-5Bs, too.”

“Yes sir, 48 hours.”

◦

Breaking news alert... CNN has just learned that by order of the President the entire 82nd Airborne Division is being moved to Nellis Air Force Base. Chairman Russel L. Honoré indicated that the President ordered the 82nd prepositioned to put down an insurgency.

“There goes the ballgame. How big is a Division, 15,000 men?”

“At least. Don’t worry about it; they won’t do a thing unless we attack them; it would violate Posse Comitatus. If you go on the Internet, I have a website you should check out.”

“I don’t know about that, Jim.”

“Trust me on this. Let’s get the convoy started and move the equipment. I want everyone in the Red Rock area within 24 hours. String them out, and tell everyone except the guard detail to wear civilian clothes. Mix up the people so we don’t have a long line of out of state license plates.”

◦

“Is everyone here?”

“The last of them just arrived.”

“Ok, I’ll get Becky to call the two newspapers. When should she tell them that we are planning on arriving?”

“How about 3 days from now on September 17th?”

“Do you want some of the 105mm Howitzers set up? They found some M546 APERS-T beehive rounds at Hawthorne.”

“Why the heck not? Maybe we can avoid getting our people killed.”

“Why are you so sure the military won’t get involved? From just about anyone’s point of view, what we’re doing amounts to an insurrection?”

“Do you remember the list of Executive Orders we talked about? Name one that gives the President the power to violate Posse Comitatus. All of those powers he has are vested in civilian agencies. The martial law concept in the US is closely tied with the Writ of Habeas Corpus, which is in essence the right to a hearing on lawful imprisonment, or more broadly, the supervision of law enforcement by the judiciary. The ability to suspend habeas corpus is often equated with martial law. Article 1, Section 9 of the Constitution states, ‘The privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it.’

“In US law, martial law is limited by several court decisions handed down between the Civil War and WWII. In *Ex parte Milligan* 71 US 2 1866, the US Supreme Court held that martial law could not be instituted within the United States when its civilian courts are in operation. In 1878, Congress passed the Posse Comitatus Act, which forbids military involvement in domestic law enforcement without congressional approval. The National Guard is an exception, since unless federalized, they are under the control of state governors. And the Governor of Nevada hasn’t activated the Nevada National Guard. (The Governor of Louisiana refused to allow President Bush to Nationalize the Louisiana National Guard, thus she was the one with power over and responsibility for the Guard’s actions.) Unless we seize and hold real property, the US government is powerless, according to the US Supreme Court.”

“What about the munitions?”

“Technically I suppose you could argue that we have government property, but all it would take is an explosive charge to destroy the evidence. Besides, before this is over, we’re going to bring the government down.”

◦

Porter Rockwell was that most terrible instrument that can be handled by fanaticism; a powerful physical nature welded to a mind of very narrow perceptions, intense convictions, and changeless tenacity. In his build he was a gladiator; in his humor a Yankee lumberman; in his memory a Bourbon; in his vengeance an Indian. A strange mixture, only to be found on the American continent. – Fitzhugh Ludlow, 1870.

Rockwell was reportedly a member of the Danites, a short-lived Mormon vigilante group. Stewart Durham writes, *The most notorious Danite was Orrin Porter Rockwell, the so-called Destroying Angel, who served occasionally as bodyguard for Joseph*

*Smith ... and for Brigham Young. Though he was never convicted, Rockwell was implicated in several murders, including the decapitation, in Utah in 1850, of a Missourian who was said to be a member of the mob that killed Joseph Smith. On the other hand, he was a gunfighter and Deputy US Marshal who was reputed to have killed many men. It is said that Porter once told a crowd listening to US Vice President Schuyler Colfax in 1869, I never killed anyone who didn't need killing. He became a legend as a rough-and-ready frontiersman, a scout, a marksman, a man of iron nerve and a man of unswerving loyalty. (And, probably the source for John Wayne's statement in *True Grit* – I never shot nobody I didn't have to.*

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According to an anonymous source, the reenactment group responsible for the massacre of 154 US BATF agents on the western shore of Walker Lake on Labor Day plans to move their forces to the Red Rock Canyon Conservation Area located west of downtown Las Vegas on Blue Diamond Road. The source, a woman, told this reporter that they had been camping on the Hawthorne Range and planned to move to the area on September 17th. This information has been forwarded to the federal authorities. In an interview, a BATF public relations official stated that several over flights of the area had been made and there was no evidence of an encampment. The same source declined further comment. I attempted to travel to the Conservation Area to see if an advance party was present, but federal officials have closed all access to the area. I can only assume that they intend to move into the area and wait for the insurgents.

“What do they have for equipment?”

“Nothing we can't handle. They have some Light Armored Vehicles of some kind. I told the artillery people to standby with some of the M1 HE rounds. They should be more than enough to take out the LAVs. I don't know if you've been paying attention, but several of the C-17s and C-5Bs have flown into Nellis. I guess that they went ahead and brought in the 82nd Airborne.”

“So what? Have you seen anyone wearing a red beret?”

“No, I haven't.”

“Don't worry about the All American Division; they're probably on our side.”

“What about the Screaming Eagles?”

Jim and Becky Part II – Chapter 19 – Flight to Freedom

“Yeah them too. Do you know anyone in America besides Sarah Brady who likes the BATF?”

◦

WASHINGTON – Gun-control advocate Sarah Brady bought her son a powerful rifle for Christmas in 2000 - and may have skirted Delaware state background-check requirements.

Brady reveals in a new memoir that she bought James Brady Jr. a Remington .30-06, complete with scope and safety lock, at a Lewes, Del., gun shop.

“I can’t describe how I felt when I picked up that rifle, loaded it into my little car and drove home,” she writes. “It seemed so incredibly strange: Sarah Brady, of all people, packing heat.”

Brady became a household name as a crusader for stricter gun-control laws after her husband, James, then the White House press secretary, was seriously wounded in a 1981 assassination attempt on then-President Ronald Reagan.

Brady writes in “A Good Fight” that the unnamed gun shop ran federal Brady Law and Delaware state background checks with great fanfare.

The book suggests that she did not have her son checked, as required by Delaware state law.

“When the owner called in the checks, it seemed to me he spoke unnecessarily loudly, repeating and spelling my name over and over on the phone,” Brady writes.

Amy Stillwell, a spokeswoman for The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, said the federal Brady Law does not require background checks for intrafamily gun gifts.

Stillwell said she did not know whether her son was checked under the state law. The Delaware Department of Justice says the state does not have an exemption for family gifts.

“Scott is not a convicted felon, and he is not prohibited from owning a gun,” Stillwell said. “Scott Brady could walk into a store and buy a - he is not a prohibited purchaser.”

Delaware Justice Department spokeswoman Lori Sitler said the purchase could be illegal under state law if Brady did not also say who she was buying the gun for and submit his “name, rank and serial number” for a full check.

“You can't purchase a gun for someone else,” Sitler said yesterday. “That would be a ‘straw purchase.’ You’ve got a problem right there.”

Anti-gun control advocates were surprised to hear of Brady’s foray into their world.

“We hope that it's innocuous and there's been no laws violated,” said James Jay Baker, chief lobbyist for the National Rifle Association. “It’s obviously interesting that Sarah would be purchasing firearms of any kind for anybody, given her championing of restrictive guns laws for everyone.”

Does it still bother you to make a ‘straw man’ purchase? Sarah Brady does it in violation of Delaware law. The bias of the reporter is obvious. From his description of the Remington 30-06, it sounds like a cannon and it had... a telescopic sight. That must make it some sort of Assault Weapon. At least she put it in her trunk. Remember the Brady boy didn’t get to choose his parents.

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Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area proved to be a poor place to wage a battle. Red rocks feature often in place names of Southwest USA – New Mexico, Arizona and California each have a Red Rock State Park and there are several similarly named towns in these and other states. Nevada has at least three Red Rock Canyons; two are in sections of the Toiyabe National Forest near the center of the state while by far the most well-known is location is along the east side of the Spring Mountains - one of the ranges of hills that surround most sides of Las Vegas. Just 10 miles from the city, the mountains rise to a great colorful escarpment, formed along a fault zone with peaks over 8,000 feet, and including huge cliffs and ravines composed of bands of grey, white and red rock, all heavily eroded. The wide empty plains beneath the hills are studded with Joshua trees and other desert plants, contributing to a most impressive spectacle.

RRCNCA was selected because it was away from downtown Vegas. Access to the area was limited to state route 159 and the canyon had a single one-way road around its periphery. There had also been Park Service employees to deal with. It was a very poor choice, indeed. At least they had an escape route, Lost Creek Canyon – the largest canyon through the cliffs, which provides the only through route to the far side of the mountains. A 20-mile dirt track follows the stream way past more of the characteristic colorful, layered rocks, then across the western foothills to the desert town of Pahrump. They could either go there or move into the Toiyabe National Forest.

By the 16th of September the BATF was assembled and had set up an ambush about a mile inside of the park. The feds had no idea that they were surrounded. Given the terrain, the 155mm howitzers and the various rounds couldn’t be used. They decided to use some of their precious supply of TOWs to take out the feds LAVs. The US currently fields the TOW 2, 2A and 2B. Gunny suggested they save the TOWs for the tanks and use the M-136 AT4s they had. They couldn’t use them on Abrams tanks anyway and the missile would take out 400mm of armor.

“Take out their LAVs, first, they only have 6 and their guns are pointed the wrong way.”

“I sure hate shooting people in the back.”

“As soon as we open up, they’ll turn around, don’t concern yourself. Fire!”

A battle can be a short-lived affair like the one at Walker Lake or a prolonged engagement. When you attack the enemy from the rear, your odds improve dramatically. The crews of the Devil’s Brigade’s LAVs had M4 rifles equipped with the SOPMOD kits manufactured by Knight Armaments Company of Titusville, Florida. They also carried the M1911; no one liked the M-9 Beretta. The people who handled the M136 AT4s were outfitted with the MP-5/10 and the 10mm pistols, usually Glock. The majority of the other members of the Brigade were equipped with 7.62x51mm caliber rifles using the M993 ammo. The feds weren’t wearing heavy enough body armor.

A battle is just a noisy affair with gun blasts, grenade explosions and a lot of screaming. There is nothing romantic about a battle, or in this case a slaughter. BATF agents who didn’t die outright were executed, what else would you call it? Their LAVs were destroyed, along with the mounted weapons. Most of their weapons were recovered and they include MP-5s, MP-5/10s, and an assortment of pistols, usually 9mm or 10mm. They also had M-24 SWS; some of the Barrett M82A1 rifles and lots M16A4s. The body count was better, 511 dead feds, none survived, and 31 dead patriots. The wounded numbered close to 200. Anyone who could be patched up and continue was treated and released. The delivery trucks had brought back the people wounded at Walker Lake that were fit for combat and were used to haul the seriously wounded back to the farms.

“Jim we need medical supplies.”

“What do you need, honey?”

“Some of everything, IV fluids, bandages and blood. Our supply of antibiotics is running low, too.”

“Did any of the doctors come back from the farms on the delivery trucks?”

“One did a surgeon.”

“Why don’t you corner him and go to Las Vegas. There must be several medical supply firms.”

“Did you bring any money?”

“Gold Notes and Eagles, take whatever you need. How are we going to carry fresh frozen plasma?”

“We can’t. We’ll have to buy dried plasma and reconstitute it as needed. When we need whole blood, we’ll just have to use donors from the Brigade.”

“What is the situation on the wounded?”

“We patched up about half of them and sent them back to their units. Bullet grazes and minor flesh wounds, they’ll be ok for future battles if they have a chance to heal. We’re going to have to transport about 100 back to the farms. Some need minor surgery and some may not make it.”

“This was a costly battle.”

“If we can buy the supplies we need, we’ll be ok. You didn’t think that you could fight the federal government and walk away clean did you?”

“I always like patriot fiction stories where 5,000 bad guys died and only one patriot got a flesh wound.”

“You’d better let me look at your arm.”

“It’s just a graze, honey, nothing to be concerned about. Gene cleaned it up and put on the bandage. It burns like the dickens.”

“You’ve had a tetanus shot, so I’ll give you an antibiotic and change the bandage. How did it happen?”

“I have no idea. I thought that I had adequate cover, apparently I was wrong.”

“I’m not willing to sacrifice a husband to the cause; you keep your head down.”

“Phoenix is going to be worse, you know. I doubt the feds with just send in a few people.”

“We’ll plan on a 50% casualty rate, but if that happens, the Devil’s Brigade will be history. You only have about 1,325 people left and 100 of them are walking wounded.”

“We made a mistake in choosing this area. When we do Phoenix, we’ll try to do better.”

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In a battle unlike anything seen since the Civil War, the Devil’s Brigade ambushed the BATF personnel that had set their own ambush at the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area southwest of the Las Vegas Strip. As in the case of the attack at Walker Lake, all of the federal agents were killed. Examination of the bodies disclosed that many had been wounded in the battle and summarily executed later. Also, as in the

case of the attack at Walker Lake, personal effects were untouched but all of the useable weapons belonging to the BATF agents were removed.

This brings the federal body count to 154 for Walker Lake and an additional 511 for this battle, a total of 665. The bodies of the dead insurgents were removed, so there is no indication of how many were killed. The 82nd Airborne Division, temporarily relocated to Nellis Air Force Base has been in charge of the cleanup. Chairman Russel L. Honoré arrived from New Washington to view the battle scene. Congress is in extraordinary session discussing a bill to authorize the President to employ the military and quell the insurrection. General Honoré declined comment.

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“General, Congress passed a bill and I signed it into law. You are ordered to locate and destroy the rebel force. Congress decided that what’s happening met the test of Title 10 USC, Sections 331-335.”

“I’m not going to do that, no sir. I figured that’s what you wanted, so here is my resignation. I’m retiring Mr. President. I doubt a single member of the Joint Chiefs will support your action.”

“The Constitution clearly discusses insurrections in Article I, Section 9, clause 2. ‘The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it.’ Congress has made that determination. General you’re a disgrace to your uniform.”

“I’ll be able to sleep tonight, Mr. President, will you?”

“General, you’re dismissed. Get out of my office right now.”

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Mr. Powell's vast military experience helped shape the so-called Powell doctrine of exercising caution when sending US troops to fight abroad.

Under the doctrine, troops should be sent into conflict only where there is a clear national interest and an exit strategy.

The doctrine says troops should be sent in overwhelming numbers or not at all - and only when success is assured.

Reflecting on his experiences of the Vietnam War, Mr. Powell wrote in his 1995 memoirs: “When we go to war, we should have a purpose that our people understand and support.

“We should mobilize the country’s resources to fulfill that mission and we should go on to win.”

Mr. Powell himself played down rumors that policy on Iraq had caused a major split in the Bush administration.

In September 2002 he told reporters: “I think there are lots of differences – some are real, some are perceived and some are over-hyped.”

◦

“Well, Colin, do you want to help them?”

“I wasn’t responsible for that Identity Chip scam, you know. Russ, if the patriots can win the battles on their own, it will be meaningful. If we try to help them, it could split the US forces and cause another Civil War.”

“I suppose, but I believe they’re right. You always believed in reasonable gun control, does the new law meet your criteria for what is reasonable? We already have a Civil War; it’s the patriots against the government. You do what you want; I’m going to help them.”

“What are you going to do?”

“I can’t tell you that, what with you being a former President and all. Suffice it to say that the battle will be evenly matched. I can’t participate, but I can grease a few wheels.”

◦

“Here comes trouble.”

“What do you have?”

“An OH-58D Kiowa Warrior.”

“It isn’t armed, let it land.”

“I wonder how they found us?”

“I’m Captain Mark Powers, may I speak to Captain Ron Matthews?”

“Are you armed?”

“No sir. Neither the pilot nor I have weapons.”

“I’ll get General Matthews.”

“General Matthews?”

“A brigade needs a Brigadier.”

“Hi, Mark, what are you doing here?”

“They figured you were involved and I was picked because we’re friends.”

“If you’re here to stop us, get back on your Kiowa leave.”

“What’s your next target, Phoenix?”

“Why would you suggest that?”

“Logical, Phoenix is on the other end of US 93.”

“Sorry, no comment.”

“I understand, but if you’re passing through Kingman, you might want to check out the airport.”

“I’ll keep that in mind. Anyway, why are you here, did General Honoré send you?”

“Yes and no, Honoré and the entire Joint Chiefs resigned rather than implement the congressional law authorizing the President to suspend the Writ of Habeas Corpus and Posse Comitatus.”

“What are we up against?”

“The 82nd Airborne Division.”

“Then we’re finished.”

“Only if you quit. A majority of them refuse to fight.”

“Why? If Congress passed a law, what they’re doing would be legal.”

“Legal, yes, but there is a question of morality. Most are unwilling to go up against any Americans who are merely trying to force the government to rescind a law that violates the 2nd Amendment. Unfortunately, the Democrats control the Senate and the House. Do you know where New Washington is?”

“Northern Kansas.”

“Lebanon, Kansas. Lebanon can be reached from Kingman if you travel to Albuquerque on I-40, pick up I-25 and take it to Colorado Springs. From there, you can go cross-country to Limon, Colorado and pick up I-70. Take I-70 to Colby, Kansas and pick up US 383 north. That will take you to US 36 and you can take it to US 281 and north.”

“Why would we want to do that?”

“Ever kill a snake?”

“No.”

“You cut its head off, Ron. The 82nd is being airlifted to Phoenix. In case you’re wondering how we located you, we’ve had you under observation since Red Rock with an unarmed Predator. So far the information hasn’t been passed up the line, but that’s going to change soon. If you get on the interstates and disappear, it may take the Predator days to locate you again. We’ll start by searching US 93 all the way to Phoenix.”

“What would we have to deal with if we went to New Washington?”

“US Marshals, BATF, FBI, Capitol Police and the Secret Service.”

“Sheesh, we’d be outnumbered.”

“You need to bring this campaign of yours to an end. You’ve made you point with the American people. The latest public opinion poll shows that more than 50% of those polled favor your cause. However, if you engage the military in a future action, the same poll shows it dropping to barely 20%.”

“What’s at Kingman?”

“Everything you need, provided you get there and pick it up before we have to reposition it to Phoenix. Make your decision quickly. Good luck.”

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“How far is it to Kingman?”

“About 60 miles. What is in Kingman?”

“The man said everything we need is at the airport if we get there before they reposition it to Phoenix.”

“It could be a trap.”

“We’ll send Owen and Gunny to check it out. It’s on the way to Phoenix, anyway.”

“How did they find us?”

“Predator.”

“What did your friend suggest?”

“It’s a little over 1,200 miles from Kingman to Lebanon, Kansas.”

“Who is in New Washington?”

“US Marshals, BATF, FBI, Capitol Police and the Secret Service plus Congress and the President. The 82nd Airborne Division is being repositioned to Phoenix.”

“Jeb and Ron Carson will want to go with Gunny and Owen.”

“That’s our entire recon team.”

“Well?”

“We’ll send the whole team. Gunny can drive his Hummer because it’s painted to look like a government vehicle for the convoy. Tell the four of them to get in BDUs to support the image.”

“Are ‘they’ still watching us with the Predator?”

“I have no idea who ‘they’ might be. Ask Ron Matthews, Mark was a friend of his.”

“Mark is a Ranger with the 1st of the 75th Ranger Regiment. You can tell from the Ranger Tan Beret, which distinguishes Rangers in the 21st Century as the Black Beret recognized them as a cut above in the past. Maroon Beret is Airborne, Green Beret is Army Special Forces and Black Beret is Regular Army. Soldiers who are not assigned to units or positions authorized wear of the tan, green, or maroon berets will wear the black beret.”

“Who wears the Blue Berets?”

“The UN.”

“Oh, those guys.”

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“It appears that we’re going to have a real convoy, how many are there?”

“Eight.”

“What about ammo?”

“They’re fully loaded and the tractor trailer rig has reloads. The tanker is full of JP-8.”

“Does anyone know how to operate them?”

“I took a poll, we only need 32 crewman and I found 40.”

“Spares of everything are good. I guess this makes us an official Brigade.”

“We’d better hit the road if we’re going to get to New Washington before they discover that we didn’t go to Phoenix.”

“How long do you figure?”

“24 hours, 26 max.”

“It’s just a shame that Teddy isn’t alive, he’d crap his pants when we showed up.”

“There doesn’t seem to be any shortage of liberals in New Washington. It would be nice if we could end this campaign without anyone else getting killed.”

There were 8 Hummers sitting there equipped with either TOW (M1121) or Stinger (M1097 Avenger) missiles. There were also 8 M1070 tractors and 8 M1000 trailers, loaded, with a semi of reloads and an 8,000-gallon tanker of JP-8. Yeah, a really convoy all right, they’d all have to dress in BDUs if they were driving the government vehicles. Mark had been right; they had everything they needed for a trip to New Washington. The thing about it was, a Ranger Captain couldn’t have arranged all of the equipment sitting there and they clearly had a Patron Saint. Anyone could drive a Hummer, but it took specialists to use a M1A2SEP Abrams tank, a driver, a loader, a gunner and a commander. The A2 version carried 42 rounds and weighed 70 tons. They had M829A1 APFSDS-T and M830A1 HEAT-MP-T. There were several rounds of M1028 canister on the semi.

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It was never disclosed what happened in New Washington, apparently the politicians wanted to save face. Uninformed sources said it was a military coup d’état. There is also a category known as bloodless coups in which the mere threat of violence is enough to force the current government to step aside. The term self-coup is used when the current government assumes extraordinary powers not allowed by legislation. In this case the former ended the latter.

In the case of the Devil’s Brigade, the small contingent of powerful military vehicles rolling into New Washington was enough to end the strife. Laws were repealed, Congressmen and women resigned and the President signed every bill that came before

him. The Supreme Court ruled specifically and on point that the Pledge of Allegiance didn't violate the separation of Church and State. One morning Congress and the President awoke to find the Abrams tanks abandoned and the LAVs missing. The Devil's Brigade melted back into the population. Some things didn't get returned but don't put shells in the howitzers on display in front of the Legion and VFW Halls, they might go off.

Most of the House lost their seats in Congress and 1/3 of the Senators fared poorly in the next election. The NRA forced a case before the SCOTUS and the ruling was, again, that the 2nd Amendment was an individual right that was subject only to state regulation, the federal government was powerless to control firearms. Most of the remaining states created state defense forces, separate from the National Guard.

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I hold it, that a little rebellion, now and then, is a good thing, and as necessary in the political world as storms in the physical.

When governments fear the people, there is liberty. When the people fear the government, there is tyranny. The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with inherent and inalienable rights; that among these, are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness.

What country before ever existed a century & half without a rebellion? And what country can preserve its Eagles if their rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms. The remedy is to set them right as to facts, pardon & pacify them. What signify a few lives lost in a century or two? The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants. It is its natural manure.

Thomas Jefferson

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Dissent is the highest form of patriotism.

That government is best which governs least.

Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it.

Thomas Paine

Jim and Becky Part III – Chapter 20 – Gathering Storm

After the campaign to restore the government to its senses, the Devil's Brigade disbanded. The various state contingents took whatever equipment they had and returned to their homes. Several state legislatures immediately adopted the provisions from the Alaskan Constitution concerning firearms.

The Three Sisters area contains 5 large cones of Quaternary age – North Sister, Middle Sister, South Sister, Broken Top, and Mount Bachelor. North Sister and Broken Top are deeply dissected and probably have been inactive for at least 100,000 years. Middle Sister is younger than North Sister, and was active in late Pleistocene but not postglacial time. South Sister is the least dissected; its basaltic andesite summit cone has a well-preserved crater. Most of South Sister predates late Wisconsin glaciation and is therefore older than 25,000 years; however, eruptions of rhyolite from flank vents have occurred as recently as 2,000 years ago.

The latest eruptions on South Sister, which occurred in two closely spaced episodes about 2,000 years ago, illustrate a relatively modest scale of eruptive activity. Initial explosive eruptions produced small pyroclastic flows and tephra fallout from several aligned vents low on the south flank. Tephra fallout deposits more than 2 meters (7 feet) thick, composed of pumice, rock fragments, and ash, blanketed areas within 2 kilometers (1 mile) downwind of vents; at 13 kilometers (8 miles) about 10 centimeters (4 inches) fell. Less than one centimeter (0.5 inch) of ash fell at least as far as 40 kilometers (25 miles) south of the vents (at Cultus Lake) and east of the vents (at Bend). Following tephra eruptions, lava emerged from two vent areas, forming a large lava flow, Rock Mesa, and several small lava domes. Decades to a few centuries later, a similar eruptive sequence occurred along a zone of vents that extended from just north of Sparks Lake to high on the southeast flank of South Sister, as well as along a shorter zone on the north flank near Carver Lake.

During the past 4,000 years, Baker, Glacier Peak, Rainier, St. Helens, Adams, Hood, Jefferson, Three Sisters, Newbury, Crater Lake, Medicine Lake, Shasta and Lassen have erupted. The Cascadian Subduction Zone, which encompasses Western Washington and Oregon, is located where two of the tectonic plates that make up the Earth's crust collide. The offshore Juan de Fuca Plate runs into and dives under, or "subducts", the North American plate. The plates move in a slow, subterranean collision at an average speed of four centimeters per year. The massive killer quake of magnitude-9.5 in Chile in 1960, for example, happened within days of one of these slow, silent types. Nobody knows precisely what the connection might be, but everyone is certain it's worth close attention. You did know that a slow quake is occurring in Cascadia, right?

The Cascadia Earthquake was a magnitude 9-megathrust earthquake of the Juan de Fuca Plate in the Pacific Ocean, from mid-Vancouver Island of southwest Canada off British Columbia to northern California, off what is now the Pacific Northwest of the United States.

It took place at about 9:00 in the evening of January 26, 1700. While no one who lived there at the time kept written records, the earthquake's occurrence is known from Japanese of a tsunami that could not be tied to any other earthquake. The natives have oral traditions. Other megathrust earthquakes are the slightly more powerful 1964 American Good Friday Earthquake, measured at 9.2, and the 1960 great Chilean Earthquake measured at 9.5 on the Richter scale.

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The Republic of Cascadia is one proposed name for the independent sovereign state that would be formed by the union of British Columbia, Washington, and Oregon, were these states and provinces to ever successfully secede from their respective federal governments in Ottawa and New Washington. The boundaries of this Cascadia would incorporate those of the existing province and states.

The idea for an autonomous or independent Cascadian state first arose after World War II, and has since been embraced by a number of different groups with generally similar aims. Some groups have sought to extend the interpretation of "Cascadia" to embrace parts of Northern California and Alaska, while others are more closely aligned with such related concepts as the State of Jefferson.

Political motivations for the secession and autonomy movements deal mostly with perceived shared Cascadian political culture, values and interests, which the eastern federal governments are accused of ignoring and being out of touch with.

The region is already served by several cooperative organizations and interstate or international agencies, especially in forestry and fishery management and emergency response – the whole region being prone to earthquakes. These organizations are thought by some to be precursors of a bioregional democracy, perhaps along the 'Republic' lines.

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While Scientists suggest that several smaller quakes serve to release the stored energy in subduction zones, as was pointed out the massive Chilean Earthquake in 1960 was preceded by other quakes. On December 26, 2004 a massive quake, known by the scientific community as the Sumatra-Andaman earthquake, occurred. The most definitive estimate so far has put the magnitude at 9.15. The earthquake was unusually large in geographical extent. An estimated 1200km (750 miles) of fault line slipped about 15m (50ft) along the subduction zone where the India Plate dives under the Burma Plate. The slip did not happen instantaneously but took place in two phases over a period of several minutes. The earthquake generated a tsunami that killed more than 150,000 people, making it one of the deadliest disasters in modern history. Between 170,000 and 250,000 people are thought to have died as a result of the tsunami and the count is not yet complete.

Scientists said that the 100 square-mile bulge, first discovered by satellite, poses no immediate threat to nearby residents. The bulge is in a sparsely populated area 3 miles southwest of South Sister, a mountain 25 miles west of Bend, Oregon. The bulge is a bare patch of land with no residents, and anyone in the area would not be able to see, feel or smell anything, seismologists said.

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“Some of the people want to move back to Reno.”

“Tired of working for a living?”

“You’ll have to admit that most of the underlying reasons for building up these communities in the first place no longer exist.”

“How many of them want to leave?”

“About two-thirds. We can handle it if we scale back to a single shift on all of the operations. Our only other choice would be to hire people.”

“How many people would that leave us with?”

“About 70, all of the originals and a few of the later arrivals. I’m guessing that we’d have about 50 capable of working on the various enterprises.”

“Well, it’s a free country, Gene. What are we going to do with all of the extra mobile homes?”

“I figured that we’d clean them up, lock them down and keep them. The same thing applies to most of our weapons. We should let people take whatever they brought on their own, but the others belong to the company.”

“We should have kept those Abram tanks; I hated just walking away from them.”

“On the other hand, walking away from them like we did precluded a search by the government and the removal of our LAV-ADs. We kept the Hummers and between those, the LAVs and V-100s, no one will ever succeed in attacking us. The country has changed, Jim. We’ve been through a lot and it appears that the politicians have finally wised up. It’s been 6 years and they still haven’t finished rebuilding New Orleans. Add to that all of the other cities that they have to clean up and rebuild and they have enough to occupy them for a decade or more. The tree of liberty has been refreshed with the blood of patriots and tyrants; we’ll be good for a while.”

“I’m beginning to feel old.”

“We have been through a lot. The next disaster is always just around the corner, though, we have to stay prepared. Removal of those identity chips is being allowed on a voluntary basis, what do you and Becky plan to do?”

“If it’s voluntary, we’ll probably keep them, they’re handy, you know. A person barely needs to carry a wallet; everything is tied to that microchip in your shoulder. Besides, we can always remove the real chips and put in the substitutes again or simply remove them altogether. Becky is getting very handy at the process.”

“Are we still going to try and plant large gardens and all of those beans?”

“We’ll have to cut some things; we won’t have enough help to process that many tomatoes. Most everything else can be mechanized. Becky and I were talking last night and she suggested that we increase the supply of fuel. What’s your opinion?”

“The price is down at the moment and it would just about pay for two of the 15,000-gallon tanks.”

“She says we have enough gasoline but thinks we ought to increase our propane stores and replace the generators with something large enough to power all of the homes. In terms of up-front cost, large generators make sense. In the long run, wind and solar would be our best bets.”

“Couldn’t we put in a single wind turbine on each farm with maybe 400kw of capacity? Then, we could back that up with as gaseous generator of the same capacity. Kohler’s largest LP genset is 400kw. If we interconnect the farms, we could probably run on a single turbine or generator, allowing us to have a backup. That’s enough power for about 50 homes.”

“Therein lays the problem, the largest propane generators I could find were 125kw. I’ve checked Generac, Onan, Cummins and Kohler. I may have missed something but the largest I saw has a prime power rating of about 125kw.”

“That seems simple to solve, Generac has a modular system that would allow you to put in generators that could kick-in as needed. We could add another fuel tank for the vehicles and a really large tank for whatever kind of fuel we decided on.”

“This could get expensive.

“It’s only money, how many pounds of gold do you have?”

“Last I looked, I have 50 pounds. That doesn’t include what Becky and the kids have.”

“Fifty pounds is 600 ounces at \$1,200 an ounce. You can afford it.”

“I was saving the money for a vacation.”

“Where do you plan to go, Mars? Let’s look at a total capacity of 600kw in a generator, a 600kw wind turbine and enough fuel to run the generator system for 3 months. I’m leaning more to diesel than gas. We should be able to sell our extra energy to the electric company. If disaster strikes, we can probably operate on one farm’s generator if both turbines are down and stretch our fuel to over 6 months.”

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“People are starting to move back to town.”

“I don’t know why, I shower every day.”

“Gene and I were talking about cleaning and closing up the trailers after the people leave. We also talked about wind turbines and diesel generators.”

“Sounds expensive, do I want to know how much?”

“Probably not, Becky, but I’ll still have some gold left over. We’re going to have to cut back our operations to a single shift.”

“What about all of the preparations?”

“We’re storing the LAVs and V-100s in our new machine sheds. We’ll run them occasionally to keep them ready to go. All of the weapons we’ve accumulated are staying here. The project also includes a larger fuel tank.”

“How big?”

“40,000-gallons, for each farm, assuming we go with diesel generators.”

“I don’t think that we should cut back the bakery all of the way. Three people can run it and we can still run 3 shifts. It took us a while to build our customer base.”

“If you can get enough help to still run it 3 shifts a day, that’s fine with me. Everything else will have to go to a single shift however. We also discussed reducing the size of the tomato crop.”

“That doesn’t make sense. The kids will all be out of school and they can help. It’s not that big of a deal canning spaghetti sauce. Most of the time they’re just standing around and watching. When we were on the road they managed to keep everything going. If you’re going to be spending large amounts of money, we’d better keep the operation going full steam until you’ve recovered some of it.”

“I’ll discuss it with Gene again. Who is running the bakery?”

"I am now that we're home. Your mother helps part time, but until all 3 kids are in school fulltime she still has to baby sit."

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"I have the official word on the subject."

"What did Becky tell you?"

"The fuel, generator and wind turbine are ok, but she's still going to run 3 shifts in the bakery and told me to plant a full tomato crop."

"I guess that's what she was talking to Marilyn about. I was told about the same thing. We can cut staff slightly and maintain our schedule, at least for now. You and I are both going to be riding a tractor, cultivating. Since the head of the family has spoken I ordered the turbines, Cummins diesel generators and Containment Solutions 40,000 double wall tanks. I got an estimate of less than 6 months to have everything installed and running. It really depends on which part of the system you're talking about. The wind turbine has the longest installation period, 6 months. I checked and because we have mountains, we have level 5 wind."

"We need to get our survey meters recalibrated, bring yours to me and I'll ship them all to Texas. It's still a while to spring. Will we have the turbines installed by the 4th of July?"

"We will if we put in the foundations. Should we spend our time gathering firewood instead? There has been a run this year and we're getting low at the warehouse."

"Good idea, we'll get help from the others before they move. They could probably use the extra money anyway. Who is staying?"

"Royce, Abel, Lance, Owen, Joe, Mike, Jake and both Ron's. Marilyn and I are obviously staying, what about the ones I missed?"

Mom, Jeb, Jim, plus us."

"That's fourteen families counting your mom. We'll need to shut up several of the trailers. I've talked to some of the families who are leaving and many are suggesting that we maintain a reserve militia. If it's ok with you, we can let them keep the radio gear and the weapons."

"We might just as well. Tell them that we'll probably have their trailers available for the next emergency. Are you planning on a drill or something to keep everyone up to speed?"

“I thought maybe once a month on the range, minimum, more if they have the time. Everyone here ended up with a MP-5/10 and a 10mm pistol. They’re compact and I was going to recommend that we make that our primary emergency firearm set. We can also issue each family a 7.62x51mm and an M16, ammo plus some reserve food supplies. Then if we have another disaster, they’ll have what it takes to survive and get back here.”

“Are we expecting another disaster?”

“You tell me. Have you been following the developments on the Cascade Range?”

“Not really, Mt. St. Helens hasn’t blown. Neither have any other volcanoes. I heard about 6 years back about The Bulge, but they haven’t reported anything new. We always have a few minor quakes in the area.”

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California and Alaska, in that order, have the most earthquakes. Nevada is third in frequency of earthquakes among the states. Newcomers to the Valley should be well aware of the earthquake possibilities in California, but they are a little surprised to learn that our chances of damaging Nevada earthquakes are right up there with the best of them. The University of Nevada, in Reno, had prepared a Q&A on the subject, and the City of Las Vegas web site has an ‘Earthquake Information’ page that may help allay some fears for those thinking of relocating to our city.

Many of us, who were here during the nuclear testing days, were used to seeing the huge chandeliers of the casinos swaying with the shaking of the earth. Recently, quakes centered 130 miles southwest of Las Vegas, were felt easily enough in the high rises. Some of the visitors from California were alarmed enough to vacate their hotels upon feeling the tremors. The quakes were from 5.2 to 5.6 in magnitude, and were recorded as the ‘Scotty’s Junction Quakes’, after Scotty’s Castle, in Death Valley, seven miles from the epicenters.

Scientists have proclaimed Yucca Mountain ‘safe’ as the future permanent repository for the country’s toxic nuclear waste. They agree that the site will be able to withstand a magnitude 6.5 quake with[out] (sic) it being damaged enough to cause contamination of the nearby, underground water basin. Why should we be alarmed, when such learned men assure us that a major earthquake in the area has not occurred in 10,000 years and is not likely to occur in the near future. Another group of scientists tells us that more than 600 quakes of a magnitude of 2.5 or more have been recorded within 50 miles of Yucca Mountain since 1910. Nuclear power lobbying money REALLY can make the scientific and political mind spin.

Nevada has many ‘faults’, no pun intended, but none include its citizens being gullible. We will not be alarmed at normal earthquake occurrence. We, like our neighboring Californians, expect them and handle them like old quake-battle veterans would. But, since

the US Government has taken our future safety completely out of our hands regarding Yucca Mountain, all that seems left to us, is to include a prayer, among the many that come out of our fair city, that the area of the nuclear trash storage dump doesn't experience the magnitude 7 quake that other scientists admit the area is capable of producing.

Aside from Yucca Mountain, Reno, Carson City and the Death Valley areas seem to be heaviest hit by earthquakes in and close to our state. East of Sunrise Mountain and north of Mt. Charleston also seem heavily hit, but the quakes there are of lesser magnitude. Have any of you new residents or visitors to the Valley, other than those from California, wondered what that slight tremor that you felt in the still of the night in your hotel room could be? That it was an earthquake would be a pretty good bet.

Someone is always complaining about something. What is the population of Nevada? Quadruple the number and you'll have an idea how many oppose Yucca Mountain. The nuclear plants produce 20% of the electricity used in the US. People like their electrical appliances but they don't want what comes with it. People from Nevada argue that most of the waste comes from east of the Mississippi. So do most of the people, the population density in New Jersey is 438km², the density in Nevada is 7km². Alaska is the lowest with ~2km². Yucca Mountain is in the old Nevada Test Range, it's already radioactive. The feds limit the output from Yucca Mountain to 350mR per year for the next 10,000 years. In the year 2525, if man is still alive, if woman can survive... who cares? Be careful what you say, things have a way of biting you on the butt.

Let's examine the facts; I haven't heard anyone complaining about the open storage site to the southeast of Yucca Mountain, check the earthquake map, there have been so many quakes in that area, on the map, it's nothing but little red squares. It's near Argus Valley. If you've made it far in this yarn, you should realize that you should only fight the fights you can win.

Like any geologic formation, Yucca Mountain is crisscrossed by cracks and fissures. Some of these cracks extend from the planned storage area all the way to the water table 1000 feet (300 m) below. It is feared by some that these cracks may provide a route for radioactive waste after the predicted containment failure of the waste containers several hundred years from now. Officials state that the waste containers will be stored in such a way as to minimize or even nearly eliminate this possibility. Even without cracks tuff is slightly permeable to water but due to the depth to the water table it is estimated that by the time the waste enters the water supply it will be safe. According to Nevada's Agency for Nuclear project, "since 1976, there have been 621 seismic events of magnitude greater than 2.5 within an 80km radius of Yucca Mountain." The largest of these earthquakes was in 1992, with a magnitude of 5.6. There are 33 faults in, or near, the repository site.

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Ultimately they ended up with a series of Cummins single-phase diesel-powered 125kw generators using the built-in controller to synchronize them. They decided on 40,000-gallon diesel tanks to feed the generators in addition to the 15,000-gallon tanks for the vehicles. Altogether, each farm had 10,000-gallons of propane, only used for furnaces, water heaters, stoves and dryers. The 2 vehicle tanks, at 15,000-gallons each, added to the generator tank of 40,000 gallons, made a total of 55,000 gallons of #2 diesel fuel available. The smaller tanks were plumbed together with the larger tank, allowing them to use the diesel fuel for any purpose.

The new tanks were in within 2 weeks and the generators within a month. The wind turbines were on order but they weren't guaranteed to be running before Labor Day, and possibly the 1st of October. With a 45m tower, the turbines require a heavy base, containing several yd³ of reinforced concrete. The company wasn't willing to start on the bases before April, but they began shipping components. It wasn't too difficult to install the new generators. They dug down to the end of the generator extension, removed the endplate, hauled the old generator out and lowered the new 125kw generators into the hole. Residential sound suppression was used on the generators and additional sound-proofing added to the rooms. The endplates were replaced, the fuel plumbed in and the holes refilled.

It was Jimmy and Becky's 4th birthday, February 14, 2011. At age 4, children can be precocious. At age 3, they're even worse. Johnny couldn't understand why he wasn't the center of attention. It was about this time that Jim and Becky realized that they shouldn't have given their twins the same names as theirs. Somehow they managed to have a very good time, despite cake being all over the kitchen.

"Did you feel that?"

"Now that you mention it, I did. It wasn't much of an earthquake."

"Not yet, we don't have the wind turbines in. God if you're listening, we aren't ready for this, wait until October, please."

"If we have to, we can assemble and install them ourselves."

"It could come to that, what haven't they shipped?"

"We have the tower, the alternator, the blades and the controller. We even have an instruction book. We don't know is how to put it all together."

"Hook it up, you mean. We can assemble it. Surely the instruction manual must discuss minimum requirements for a base."

"I have never looked; it might even tell how to hook everything up."

“Gene, we’d better assemble the tower ourselves. We can assemble the tower and lift it into place with a crane. We probably don’t want to install the blades until it’s upright but maybe we can install the alternator. You call them tomorrow morning and ask how much of the job we can do and how soon they can come by and finish up. They shouldn’t complain; we already paid for the installation.”

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“I’ve got Royce and Abel working on the holes for the foundations. They said that if we had the tower erected and the alternator in place, they could install the blades and hook up the controller in 10 days. That’s for each turbine. They can come March 15th but can’t possibly be finished before 4 weeks. Apparently they don’t work weekends.”

“That may have to do. So far as the control panel goes, if they get one wired up, we ought to be able to copy what they do to wire up the second. We’d better have them do the blades first.”

“It was just a little temblor; we get them all of the time.”

“This one felt different, Gene.”

“I can see that it’s making you nervous, what is that all about?”

“I really don’t know; this quake just seemed different. I think we’d better stop everyone gathering wood and get the towers assembled.”

“We still have almost a full crew; it shouldn’t take more than a week to have everything assembled and for the concrete to be set enough to raise the towers. I’m going to call them back and tell them that they have to be here in not more than 10 days. We bought 2 complete turbines with controllers and paid a premium to get them delivered ahead of time. If they can just send one guy, he can tell us or show us what to do.”

“Good, I have a bad feeling that this is something we need to get done sooner rather than later.”

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A 45 meter tower is about 147’ 8” feet high, plus or minus a little. They needed to hire a very tall crane to raise the towers. They waited to raise the towers until the engineer from the wind turbine company showed up on February 28th. He shuttled between both farms supervising the installation of the towers and blades. He also instructed a local electrician how to install the control panels. The turbines were ready to operate by March 11th. They were advised to keep the turbines locked down until the concrete had cured a full 4 weeks. That didn’t matter; they were up and certified to run correctly.

“How strong is the concrete we used?”

“About 3 times spec. It’s reinforced with fiberglass or some sort of additive. It’s has a high ratio of concrete to aggregate. The ready-mix plant claimed that it would hold the tower up through a 9.0 earthquake provided the tower was properly installed.”

“Are they?”

“Huh?”

“Are the towers properly installed?”

“The engineer claimed that they were. They’re supposed to be capable of withstanding a 9.2 earthquake if they’re shut down immediately and they have an automatic braking circuit to shut them down if it starts to rumble.”

“And if they don’t work, we get our money back?”

“No, but he said they’d repair them when they had time.”

“What about the solar?”

“The solar powers the batteries in the shelters. It is the primary source of power for the shelters and for the classrooms. If we’re in the shelter, it doesn’t seem likely we’d be in the classrooms. However, I suppose it would depend on what type of disaster we have.”

“I don’t think we’re going to have another war with a foreign country. We haven’t heard anything from the terrorists in a very long time. We won our war for independence and I doubt we’ll have a tornado or hurricane. I guess that leaves a volcanic eruption or a major earthquake.”

“How far are we from Yucca Mountain?”

“250 miles. Why?”

“What if we have a major earthquake and the containment vessels leak?”

“Did we get the survey meters back from Texas?”

“Yep.”

“Don’t worry about it, if that happens we have the shelter.”

“10,000 years is a long time to stay in the shelter.”

"I really don't believe you'll have to worry about it. Yellowstone or Long Valley is just as likely to erupt, as we are to have an earthquake that releases radiation from Yucca Mountain. I can tell you what does have me concerned."

"What?"

"The Bulge near South Sister. I was out at the Volcano Hazards website maintained by the USGS. One paper I read describes all of the things a volcanic eruption can trigger including debris avalanches, pyroclastic flows, pyroclastic surges, volcanic blasts, lava flows, lava domes, lahars, floods, tephra (ash), volcanic gas, volcanic seismicity and atmospheric shock waves. We're a long way from The Bulge, so the worst we could probably expect is some ash. I was talking with one fella who said that there has been a march of the volcanic eruptions along the Cascade Chain. During the past 4,000 years, Baker, Glacier Peak, Rainier, St. Helens, Adams, Hood, Jefferson, Three Sisters, Newbury, Crater Lake, Medicine Lake, Shasta and Lassen have erupted. Plus during 2005, there was that tsunami warning when the Cascadia Subduction zone had that little activity. It only generated a 1cm tsunami, but it was activity."

"I didn't know you were into geology."

"I'm into studying anything that can kill me or my family. There seems to be some sort of a pattern related to the unrest in the Cascades. I even heard a theory about the Ring of Fire. It seems that some fella has been on a soapbox claiming that the Ring of Fire is closing in on the western US. Chile was in 1960 and the Good Friday quake in 1964. He claims that the earthquakes are closing in on each other and when they reach a certain minimum distance apart, look out. The Good Friday quake triggered unrest in Yellowstone and there is speculation that the 12/26/04 tsunami was related to a quake on the other end of that fault. The planet seems to be going through a period of violence. The Atlantic storms have been increasing in intensity for years. Witness Andrew in 1992, Ivan in 2004 and Katrina in 2005."

"I thought that the so called precursors released energy and made the earthquakes smaller."

"There was a precursor to the 1960 Chile quake that may have even served to store additional energy. Have you ever looked at a map of the quakes in this area? We're not that far from Long Valley and in our immediate area, there have been numerous quakes in recent years."

"Quakes cause mountains and we have plenty of those."

"Are we completely ready?"

"I'd say so, yes. Everything is current; we have 3 sources of electrical energy, plenty of fuel, tons of food, extra firewood in the forest and the warehouse in Reno. One of the kids went around and checked on everyone's supply of flashlight batteries and emer-

gency supplies. It doesn't get much better than it is at the moment. Top that off by two shelters with over 4,000 ft² of living space each and we're ready for anything."

"What about the water towers?"

"They are essentially pyramids like the Transamerica Building in San Francisco. They're supposed to be the best shape for a building to be earthquake resistant."

"What do we do now?"

"It's about 6 weeks until planting time. We need to get out and plow, disk and drag the fields before we plant. We'll get everything planted and go from there. As long as we're prepared it doesn't really matter what happens."

"Have we missed anything?"

"We can have Joe go through all of the communications equipment and make certain it's all up to snuff. Other than that, I can't think of anything we've missed."

"Then we'd better get the others back in the woods harvesting firewood while we prepare the land for planting. When are the majority of them moving?"

"As soon as school is out for the year. The young people can make more here over the course of the summer than they can in town so I'd imagine that most of them will stay on until harvest is almost completed."

"It's going to seem like a ghost town when they all leave."

"I was looking forward to the peace and quiet."

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"Honey do we need to replace any medical supplies? Gene and I were discussing possible disasters and the only thing we really came up with was a volcanic eruption or a major earthquake?"

"We spent a ton of money in Las Vegas just before we headed to New Washington. Other than replacing any expired drugs, I don't really believe we need very much. I can tell you that I wouldn't mind setting up a health clinic if we have any empty classroom buildings."

"With our scaling back operations, we might just have one opening up. What do you want that we don't already have?"

"I was shopping the Internet and found a reconditioned portable X-Ray machine. If we set up a 6-bed hospital and a couple of examination rooms, there would still be room for

a small surgery and lab. You'd be surprised at the amount of good reconditioned equipment available."

"That means lab technicians, a doctor, more nurses and possibly a radiologist or a technician, doesn't it?"

"It does, but we could probably arrange for a 3rd year resident to hold clinic hours once a week. Some of the nurses that I worked with at St. Mary's might be available to staff the hospital if we actually had patients. I can work there, of course. Usually ER nurses do the triage anyway."

"What kind of licensing would we need?"

"We could probably get by with a license for an outpatient clinic, but build the facility to a higher standard."

"I suppose that I could chip in maybe 60 ounces of gold."

"I'll match whatever you put up. I have a pretty good pile myself, 120 ounces."

"Are you going to set up a small pharmacy? We'd only need to carry what people living here are prescribed."

"I hadn't thought about that but I suppose I could consider it. We could get our occasional Resident to write prescriptions for wholesale quantities. But, we can handle a lot of trauma cases as it is."

"Tell me how much you need, honey, and I'll match you dollar for dollar."

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"We need to run a test on our electrical system."

"What did you have in mind?"

"I thought we could pull the main breakers from the utility company and get everything up and running on the wind turbines. Then shut the turbines and see if the generators come online. If they do, we'll know that the system is set up right. If not, this would be a good time to correct any deficiencies."

"I'll post a notice on the bulletin boards, when do you want to conduct the test?"

"If we could plan it for the next time the generators are set to exercise themselves, we'd waste less fuel. They run on Sundays."

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Jim finally gave in to Becky's demands and bought another classroom building to use as a medical clinic. She bought used equipment from a closed hospital that was in bankruptcy and selling its equipment to pay its creditors. A resident and a nurse from St. Mary's said they would come to the facility on Friday's and hold office hours. Everything was moving along well until she decided to put in a dental chair with all of the associated equipment. Becky learned that she'd need \$125,000 for a chair and she scratched that idea. This was 2011, not 1950. Even equipping the lab would have been impossible had not she been able to buy equipment from the bankrupt hospital. That probably explained why the hospital went bankrupt in the first place.

She settled for the portable X-Ray and a portable ultrasound. Having more than one of any major equipment proved to be a luxury she couldn't afford. With portable equipment she also avoided the costs associated with insulating a radiology lab. Those stray electrons were expensive to protect against. As it was, by the time they plumbed vacuum, oxygen, installed 6 hospital beds and acquired 2 complete portable units for bp, temp and oxygen saturation, Becky was almost ready to abandon the entire idea. It was almost worse than Laurel and Hardy trying to get the piano up the stairs. Do you remember when Jim and Becky got married and didn't have much of anything? If they kept spending money the way they were going, they'd soon be right back where they started. To top it all off, you had to remember that Becky was a registered nurse, not a doctor. A trauma nurse, but still...

"Nice, but where is the pharmacy?"

"We don't have one; we only have medical supplies and drugs to treat patients."

"Why not?"

"For the same reason we don't have a dentist chair or a lot of the other things I wanted. John D. Rockefeller would have had to borrow money to set up a complete clinic. This is going to emergency medicine and nothing more. I have duplicates, too, a defibrillator in the shelter and the clinic along with several other duplicates. My eyes were bigger than our budget."

"Are you done?"

"I stopped; it amounts to the same thing."

"Do you have enough to get by?"

"I have all kinds of equipment we needed that I don't know how to use. We need someone to teach me how to use the lab equipment I bought. I've never used a portable X-Ray before or an ultrasound."

"You need to solve that problem, what good is equipment if we can't use it?"

“One of the lab techs at St. Mary’s is married to a man in the radiology department. I’ve been talking to her trying to get them to move here. That would solve half of our problems.”

“I’ll give them a trailer and we can pay them very well for any work they do.”

“I already made that offer, Jim. They’re thinking it over.”

“Is our shelter equipped the same as yours?” Gene asked.

“Yes, but you don’t even have a nurse.”

“We have a Hospital Corpsman, he’ll just have to do. He’s very well trained.”

“Good, he can help in the clinic.”

◦

“Everything works as advertised. Now what?”

“Pray that we don’t have to use it.”

“I ordered a load of fuel, gas and diesel, to top off the tanks. What’s your propane situation?”

“We need about 1,500-gallons to fill the tank.”

“I’ll call Truckee and get us topped off. Did you hear, they had another tsunami off the Cascadia coast? It was a big one this time, 5cm. They’re also forecasting the worst hurricane season in 25 years for the Atlantic Coast.”

“When are we going to start closing up the trailers?”

“Marilyn is going to clean the empty ones on our farm starting in June.”

“Maybe I can get Mom and Sally to do the same thing here.”

“Do you want to finish up harvesting firewood before we lose all of our help?”

“I suppose that we’d better. At least we can get the trees cut and the logs stacked.”

◦

By June, everything was planted and nearly $\frac{2}{3}$ of the trailers were empty. Two trailers were kept open to serve as dorms, one for the young ladies and one for the young men.

It was becoming a challenge to maintain the output of the two farms. They couldn't run 3 shifts in the bakery like Becky had planned, but had managed by running 2 9-hour shifts. Ray Jones, the radiologist and his wife June, accepted Becky's offer and they and their kids moved into one of the trailer's on Jim and Becky's farm. In the evenings, after spending a full day in the fields, Jim helped Glenda and Sally to secure the empty trailers while Gene helped Marilyn. They were rapidly approaching the 70 people that they concluded were going to stay. The average day was 12-14 hours of work.

"What do you want for supper?"

"Two vitamin pills, I don't have the energy to eat, Becky."

"We'd better start cutting back. Everyone is working himself or herself to the bone, and for what? No one on either farm is exactly what you'd call broke. Tell Gene that we're cutting the bakery back to a single 12-hour shift. We're only going to have 550 loaves of bread a day from now on. The problem with people who own their own business is that they think they have to work themselves to death. Do you even remember the kids' names?"

"Manny, Moe and Jack?"

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According to the USGS, the bulge at South Sister has started to grow at an accelerated rate. Scientists speculate that the lava pool has filled and is now expanding upward rapidly. A spokesman the USGS, stated that the rate of growth is reminiscent of the rapid growth of the dome at Mt. St. Helens in the weeks leading up to the May 18, 1980 eruption that claimed a total of 64 lives, 57 as a result of the eruption and 7 more in accidents. A Level 1 alert has been issued for the immediate area but the spokesman said that due to the scant population in the area, few people would be affected.

In other news, a small swarm of M<3 earthquakes has been reported for the Cascadian Subduction Zone which stretches from northern California to British Columbia. In California, a larger swarm was reported for the Ridgecrest area. Located near Death Valley, Ridgecrest has experienced literally hundreds of small quakes since 1980. Near Parkfield a M3.7, described as an aftershock of the 2004 quake caused minor damage.

"Thar she blows!"

"What on earth are you talking about?"

"The dome near South Sister in Oregon."

"I haven't heard that it blew up."

“It didn’t, but that geologist sitting 5 miles across from the Mt. St. Helens landslide wasn’t aware that Mt. St. Helens was about to erupt either. It shouldn’t affect us here, but we should make certain that we’re prepared in case we get some sympathetic earthquakes.”

“Everything is strapped down, even the trailers. In fact the way they’re installed, they won’t move. The only concern we might have would be a heavy-duty windstorm. For crying out loud, we’ve been through WW III, terrorist attacks and the 2nd American Revolution. The only thing that can get us is if a rock comes out from behind the sun.”

“Don’t even think that it could happen! There isn’t anything that anyone in the world could do if it did. We don’t have a space shuttle anymore, so the scenarios from Space Cowboys, Deep Impact and Armageddon are out. Neither the US nor Russia have programs named Hercules or Peter the Great although the US did actually have a project name Icarus. Over thirty years ago, a group of engineers in training at the MIT designed a far more realistic defense against a doomsday rock. Their plan would have involved 6 Saturn V rockets carrying some really big bombs (100mT). The Icarus project’s legacy was primarily to spawn a lousy 1970s movie called *Meteor*, which was not only scientifically ridiculous, but committed the grave sin of covering the beautiful Natalie Wood in mud.”

“Yeah, yeah, yeah. The concern I have is that the Good Friday Quake triggered a swarm at Yellowstone. What if that lava dome blows and triggers something along the Cascadian Subduction Zone or one of the calderas?”

“Yellowstone wouldn’t bother us and I believe that Reno was spared ash from the eruption of the Long Valley caldera. I’ve looked at the map and Huckleberry Ridge, Mesa Falls, Lava Creek, Bishop and the Mt. St. Helens eruptions all failed to deposit ash in the area of Reno.”

The nearest city of any size to South Sister was the city of Bend. Bend was 322 miles north-northwest of Reno and South Sister was about 25 miles west of Bend. So if The Bulge did let go, the prevailing winds would probably inundate Bend with the ash but not do anything to Reno. The blast from Mt. St. Helens had ejected 0.4km³ of ash and it had only traveled a little ways (varies according to source). The eruption began at 8:45 am. At noon, the ash plume (in the upper troposphere and lower stratosphere) had reached Moscow, Idaho. By about 3 pm it was near Missoula, Montana and starting to spread south. By 6 pm it was east of Pocatello, Idaho. At the end of the day, about 16 hours after the eruption started, the ash plume was near central Colorado. It spread across US in 3 days; circled Earth in 15 days and detectable amounts of ash covered 22,000 square miles.

“So you’re claiming that ash can’t get here from there, wherever there is, right?”

“I guess that’s what I’m saying.”

“You had better be right. Otherwise, I hope you have a good shovel.”

“I have flood insurance too.”

“Huh?”

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At 4pm on Tuesday, July 12, 2011 an M_w 9.0 quake hit the Cascadian Subduction Zone. What follows are excerpts from news reports as reported by CNN about the damage and the lives of people in the aftermath:

Highway 101 corridor/coast – Widespread damage and isolation. To a large extent, each coastal community has isolated for weeks, as landslides disrupted many sections of coastal Highway 101. Many communities on the coast were devastated by the combination of strong shaking, landslides, tsunami waves, and fire. Buildings, roads, bridges, and utility lines suffered varying amounts of damage. Some were destroyed.

Airports, sea ports, roads, and railroads closed at least until they could be inspected; any of these facilities on land that liquefied will be closed for some time, making it difficult to bring in emergency supplies.

Public health issues become important, because of the number of casualties and the limited medical help available.

At one city on a bay, a young mother at home with two small children was knocked off her feet by the sudden, hard shaking of the ground. The children start crying and she crawled to them, grabbed one in each hand and tried to shield them with her body. The activity table only a few feet away would provide protection, but it is too difficult to move against the shaking ground and squirming kids. She wouldn't realize until the next day that her back and left arm was heavily bruised.

When the shaking stopped, she tried to comfort the kids while getting them out of the house. She opened the front door and realized that the steps were now almost a foot (one-third meter) away. The house, built in the 1920s, had shifted by that much. Even though she didn't see much damage inside the house, all utility lines have now been broken and the house had no water, sewer, gas, or electricity. A building inspector would post the home unsafe, and the family will have to rely on emergency resources for shelter, water and food.

The family started walking to Dad's office to see if he was injured. He was fine. She was also eager for news, not having a battery powered radio in the house. They found out that Highway 101 would be impassable for days. Several old, brick buildings in Old Town have partially collapsed. A tsunami has washed through the bay, which was now filled with debris.

The young woman was afraid the restaurant where she worked no longer existed. Actually, it would only be closed for a week and would reopen to serve food to residents and the numerous relief workers who come to help with recovery. Roads and railroads out of the area were not passable, but C-130 aircraft, which could land at the airport, were delivering emergency supplies.

At one city on the seashore, the owner of a motel realized at once what the shaking meant and remembered to drop, cover, and hold under the front desk. After the shaking stopped, staff and guests streamed into the office. The NOAA weather-radio broadcast a tsunami warning. The motel staff had walkie-talkies to communicate, and the owner now used that system to get damage reports from staff. Part of a second story wall collapsed, but everyone was able to get down the stairs and outside.

Many people had cuts, bruises, sprains, possibly broken bones, but there was time only for emergency first aid before taking the tsunami evacuation route. The owner knew they were in the inundation zone and it was critical to quickly get uphill to safety. He told staff and guests to start moving, making sure that everyone heard his warning. There wasn't enough time to convince those who argued with him, and with a mixture of determination to save lives, and guilt for the people staying behind; he picked up the registration list before leaving.

The crowd stayed calm as they walked the evacuation route, a quarter-mile (half kilometer) uphill to the school that had been designated an emergency assembly area. Along the way, the group passed downed power lines, collapsed walls, and streets with deep cracks. Shortly after getting to the schoolyard, they watched water flood the town, tearing houses off their foundation and easily moving parked cars. After nearly an hour the water receded, taking with it the wood, plaster, and metal it claimed. The outgoing water brought down a few buildings that withstood the incoming wave. Some people tried to leave, thinking the danger is over, but they were convinced to wait until danger from all the tsunami waves has passed.

Residents in nearby houses took in elderly guests and families with children, making sure they were kept warm through the night. They also shared food and water. Everyone ate and drank sparingly, concerned about when new supplies will be available, since Hwy 101 is obviously unusable. Aftershocks disturbed them through the night.

Of the original 100 registered guests, 45 made it to the assembly area. Later, 30 others who were in other places came back to the motel, leaving 25 dead or unaccounted for.

Until highways and the local airfield re-opened a few weeks later, temporary shelter for residents and tourists and most rescue and recovery work had to be provided for by people in the area, supplemented by military helicopter drops and boat landings. As a permanent reminder of the power of the earthquake, the beach has permanently dropped three feet (one meter), leaving part of the original town under water.

I-5/Hwy 99 Corridor - Utilities, transportation, other systems disrupted. Throughout most of the area, electricity and telephone service – both traditional and cellular – were inoperable for at least a day. Some water, sewer, and natural gas services were interrupted because of broken pipelines. Even buildings with no structural damage had to close because they did not have adequate utilities. This resulted in lost wages and lost profits.

The resident of a wood-frame home was amazed that he could find no damage after such a long earthquake. His house was anchored to its foundation, the chimney had been reinforced, and internal shelves were anchored. His children were playing at a neighbor's house and he ran to get them. The family spent an anxious night worried about Mom, who worked across the river. She arrived home the next morning.

Neighbors met together and planned to systematically check each house to see if anyone was trapped or injured. They also agreed to pool their food and bottled water supplies. Several people volunteered to heat food on their barbecues. Other people with battery-operated radios offer to open their houses at specific times so everyone can hear the latest news. Where they existed, trained neighborhood emergency teams were activated to help their communities and coordinate with fire and police rescue activities.

In commercial areas, damage ranged from slight to substantial. In downtown areas of large cities, some old brick buildings and tall buildings suffered extensive damage. Parapets fell from several buildings, causing injury and clogging streets with debris. One tall, older, concrete-frame building collapsed, causing many fatalities. Most buildings, however, did not have substantial structural damage.

Injuries were also concentrated in this area, but were found throughout the community. Many of them were people who worked in buildings that had little structural damage, but who were hit by items falling off shelves in their offices.

Even in smaller cities, response to some areas was difficult because fallen bricks and other building debris had blocked roads. Some older fire stations, police stations, and hospitals were inoperable. Several tilt-up warehouses had walls that partially collapsed. Firefighters and police officers were overwhelmed and could not respond, so people spent hours rescuing and giving first aid to their co-workers.

Because of the extent of damage across the region, many utility repairs that would normally take only a few hours now took days. The highest priorities for power restoration were utility stations, emergency resources (hospitals, fire stations), and high-density population areas (whether residential, commercial, or industrial). Until electricity was restored to water treatment facilities, there was no water.

For a few days, some cities, communities, or neighborhoods were isolated for a variety of reasons and roads that spanned one or more bridges accessed many cities in this area. In some places, bridge damage closed roads, making it difficult or impossible to drive in or out of the city. In other areas, isolated landslides blocked roads.

On a larger scale, it was difficult to immediately bring in rescue workers and emergency supplies because of problems in the regional transportation corridors.

The I-5/Hwy 99 passage was the backbone of the area's transit. Even though there was debris and damage only in localized stretches, those few spots effectively shut down the ability to travel long distances on the north-south route. Bridges had to be inspected, debris removed, and damage repaired or detours set up, before the corridor was open again.

Most of the ports in this region suffered some damage and were of limited use anyway, because shipping lanes need to be resurveyed before rivers were again navigable.

Cracked runways at airports built on areas of artificial fill or on liquefying soils were inoperable until inspection and repair work was completed. This would take hours, days, or weeks, depending on the amount of damage. Small airports might not be high on a priority list for repair.

Docks were damaged from liquefaction, and ferry service was disrupted throughout Puget Sound and British Columbia. Many islands were isolated, and communities on each side of the Sound were effectively separated.

Individuals, businesses, and governments across the world offered money, supplies, and personnel to help. In some areas, food, water, and temporary shelter were needed at first, but within a few days most people were back in their own homes. In this zone, the economic centers of Portland, Seattle, and Vancouver were the highest priorities for outside rescue and recovery activities. Given the breaks in transportation and utility services, even some high priority areas didn't get the resources they need until days after the quake. Communities in lower priority areas would need to be self-sustaining until emergency resources could be delivered, possibly for weeks. Communities that fare the best were those who knew what resources were available and had response plans that assumed they would be isolated for a while.

East of the Cascades - Indirect economic effects. Some residents in the area felt the ground shake, but it was only a very weak version of the earthquake felt at the coast. In a city like Spokane, 300 miles (500 kilometers) east of the subduction zone, the community was affected, even for those who didn't feel the ground shake.

Much of the area had little or no damage. Any serious damage was limited to relatively small pockets, generally those with soft, deep soils. Some tall buildings might have non-structural damage, which could result in injuries.

Utilities and transportation systems were disrupted in some places, where supplies first came through pipelines west of the Cascades. East-west corridors through the mountains experienced several rock falls, which closed highways and railroad lines. Connections to cities in the I-5/Hwy 99 corridor were lost for some period of time, depending on local conditions.

Emergency responders were overloaded from a combination of appropriate calls and others who were asking what happened.

Cities in this area were needed as coordination centers for the rescue, response, and recovery needed to the west. Especially in the first weeks after the quake, cities like Kamloops, Spokane, Bend, and Sacramento are important staging points. Businesses and government agencies that could not operate their Cascadia offices set up temporary offices here to take advantage of the transportation corridors through these eastern cities.

Economic losses to both profits and wages occurred. Business effects included difficulty shipping grain and other products to markets. Seaports and some river ports close to the Pacific Ocean were damaged, some severely. Shipping lanes in the lower Columbia and in other affected rivers had to be resurveyed before ship traffic could resume. In addition, rail lines, trucking, and air traffic were overburdened by extra demands for products needed to rebuild western British Columbia, Oregon and Washington, and northern California. To balance those challenges, these economies benefited to some extent from becoming hubs for transportation, commercial, and government operations supporting the recovery of Cascadia.

However, tourism to the region dramatically declined in the years following the earthquake, as news outlets focused on negative information about Cascadia. This report was prepared with the assistance of the Cascadia Region Earthquake Workgroup (CREW).

◦

“I felt that quake here, did you?”

“Maybe a little, but it’s a long way from Reno to Cascadia. From the sounds of the report on CNN, they had it pretty tough. The thing that I found so interesting was that it sounded a little like New Orleans after Katrina hit. When did CREW write its initial report?”

“Before Katrina. It makes you wonder who was really to blame for what happened on the Gulf Coast 6 years ago. Everyone said that sooner or later, a Category 5 storm would hit New Orleans. The Army Corp of Engineers tried for years to reinforce the levee system but local politicians blocked them at every turn. They almost had approval for a \$17 billion project to strengthen the levees to resist a Cat 5 storm until the locals blocked it. Of all the images I saw from that storm, I think the one that bothered me most was all those flooded school buses that could have been used to evacuate people.”

“The Governor and Mayor didn’t really cooperate.”

“True, Michael Brown was reduced to speaking to her husband and even asked Washington for help. Which of course he didn’t get soon enough to do any good. And Bush finally pushed Brown out.”

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The Hurricane Katrina disaster was the first major test of Chertoff’s secretaryship. Under the department’s national Response Plan, Chertoff became responsible for coordinating the federal response to a disaster, and can order federal agencies to be ready to respond on his own initiative, without any request from state or local officials. However, according to a September 14th story from Knight-Ridder’s Washington bureau, Chertoff’s first Katrina-related action did not occur until August 30 – 36 hours after the storm made landfall – when he issued a memo declaring Katrina an “Incident of National Significance” thereupon assuming legally dictated control of Katrina Emergency Operations on this date going forward. However, an advisory issued by the National Hurricane Center on August 27th had predicted that Katrina would strike the Gulf Coast with catastrophic force in 48 hours.

Critics (both in the media and political body) of Chertoff’s actions said the response to the disaster was inadequate in terms of leadership and promptness. To illustrate a typical view of those critical of the department, Louisiana State Representative Peter Sullivan said, “Director Brown and Secretary Chertoff have given incompetence a bad name. Their planning was nonexistent. Their response to the crisis was lethargic. Their attempt to shirk responsibility is revolting. At a time when our country needs forthright leaders, this administration [has given] us two men more concerned with partisan spin than with human suffering. Brown and Chertoff failed America, and they must be fired immediately.”

On the other hand, supporters maintain that the complexity and scope of the greatest natural disaster in American history made a quicker response difficult if not impossible. At least some of the criticism represented an attempt to exploit a natural disaster for political gain. The dialogue in the media clearly had a political flavor to it with Democrats and Republicans pointing fingers. Similar to charges about Brown getting his job through political favoritism, critics contend that Michael Chertoff had a work history similar in scope to many other sitting federal judges, law school professors, and private law partners, but he has “zero experience” in emergency, disaster, and security operations needed for the post of Secretary of Homeland Security. A recent CNN/USA Today/Gallup Poll shows that Americans viewed the handling of the Katrina disaster somewhat along party affiliations.

A word about finger pointing. Take your strong hand and extend your index finger as if to point to someone. Curl your other three fingers back in your palm. Notice how that for every finger you have pointing at the other guy, you have 3 fingers pointing back at you. The Mayor was the Mayor. The Governor was the Governor. The Mayor still had his buses, albeit under 4’ of water. The Governor still has the Louisiana National Guard, even if she doesn’t choose to use them. Dubya accepted blame for his people. What

have the Mayor and Governor said? Nothing worth listening to. Brown is out and Chertoff will be, but what about the locals? A black man and a white woman, both considered minorities. In a disaster, people must take responsibility, whether they want to or not.

What does Hurricane Katrina have to do with the earthquake on the Cascadian Subduction Zone? Nothing except to show that some people know before things happen what is most likely to occur. The hurricane forecasters get an A+ for their forecast; it's just a shame that Ray Nagin and Kathleen Blanco became an urban legend for not paying attention.

Question: What's President Bush's position on *Roe vs. Wade*?

Answer: He doesn't care how people get out of New Orleans.

"Warnings about what a Category 3 or greater hurricane could do to the Big Easy have been with us for quite a while and have appeared in the mainstream press numerous times."

The text quoted above, which has been circulated widely in e-mail, is an accurate copy of the beginning of an October 2004 National Geographic article. In "Gone With the Water," those prophetic paragraphs began a lengthy piece about Louisiana's vanishing wetlands. The complete article can be viewed on National Geographic's web site. Scientific American published a similar article in October 2001. Kind of make you wonder why Mr. Chertoff didn't expect what happened to happen, 4 > 3 and the levees were rated up to Cat 3 hurricane.

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"I got it backwards."

"What are you talking about?"

"Turn on your TV, that dome by South Sister just blew out 30 minutes ago."

"How big of an explosion?"

"They claimed it was bigger than Mt. St. Helens."

"Wind out of the west?"

"It is I don't believe that we'll get any ash."

"I told you we wouldn't."

"What if the dome going is related to the earthquake on the Cascadian Subduction Zone?"

“Well, several more of the volcanoes could go.”

“That’s what I’m afraid of. Maybe Reno was spared from the Bishop tuff, but that doesn’t mean that we will be again if it lets loose. I think we should warn the other families.”

“I get right on it.”

◦

“Everyone is alerted do we need to get in the shelters?”

“I wouldn’t think so. At least not until we see some ash. Did any of the people who moved back to Reno call?”

“I haven’t heard from anyone and the phones still seem to work so they should have been able to get through, if necessary. I think I may go down and turn on the heaters in the shelter, just in case. I’ll get some help and bring the livestock into the barn too. I’d advise that you do the same on both counts.”

“I’ll have Becky open the clinic, as well. If we do get volcanic ash, do you have masks?”

“A couple of cases of disposable N-95s.”

“Pass them out and we’ll do the same. I’m going to put someone in the Op Center in the tower for tonight.”

“Take a radio with you so we can keep in touch. I’ll have Marilyn fire up the radios.”

“I’ll put Ted on ours.”

According to reports from the USGS, the lava dome at South Sister erupted about 45 minutes ago. It has been suggested that the eruption could be related to the earlier Cascadia earthquake that occurred on July 11th. The USGS also reports that they’ve issued a level 1 alert for the area in and around Mt. St. Helens due to increased seismic activity. The last major eruption of Mt. St. Helens occurred on May 19, 1980 although there was concern in 2004 because of the growth of the lava dome. The Observatories at Longs Valley and Yellowstone have also been placed on alert along with the Alaskan Observatory. Dr. Lucy Jones at the USGS office in Pasadena said that although seismic activity in location is a poor indicator of trouble in other locations, all Observatories are now on a volcano watch. The only alerts issued thus far are the level 3 alert for the 3 Sisters area and the level 1 alert for Mt. St. Helens.

“Any of you listening should know that they’ve issued a level 3 alert for 3 Sisters and a level 1 alert for Mt. St. Helen’s.”

“Copy, Marilyn, did they say whether they thought Mt. St. Helens would erupt?”

“Negative, just the level 1 alert.”

“Gene do you have the livestock in yet?”

“Almost done, how about you?”

“I have all but Becky’s horse and he’s running away from me every time I get near. Something really has him spooked.”

“Get Becky to help you.”

“I am helping him Gene. He’s running away from me too. I’m going to turn everyone out and we’ll get him in, one way or the other.”

“Let me know if you need help. Have you noticed that sunrise is late this morning?”

“The sun always comes up. We must have ash in the air. Move everyone to the shelters or the towers and tell them to put on their masks.”

“Marilyn, you do that, I’ll finish with the livestock.”

“Roger.”

◦

“Is everyone inside now?”

“What’s up Marilyn?”

“They just raised Mt. St. Helens to level 2 and issued a level 1 alert for several mountains in the Cascade Range as well as Long Valley and Yellowstone.”

“Which mountains?”

“I didn’t get all of the names but they emphasized Adams.”

“Roger. Adams has the potential for a huge ash fall, because of its proximity to Mt. St. Helens. The most serious tephra hazards in the region are due to Mount St. Helens, the most prolific producer of tephra in the Cascades during the past few thousand years. I have a map that provides estimates of the annual probability of tephra fall affecting the region, based on the combined likelihood of tephra-producing eruptions occurring at Cascade volcanoes, the relationship between thickness of a tephra-fall deposit and distance from its source vent, and regional wind patterns. Probability zones extend farther east of the range because winds blow from westerly directions most of the time. The

map shows probabilities for a fall of 10 centimeters (about 4 inches) or greater. Northern Skamania County has an annual probability of a tephra fall of 10 centimeters or more of about 1 in 100 (1%) to 1 in 500 (0.2%). Even though Mount Adams is a meager tephra producer, the region around Mount Adams has the highest probability of tephra fall of anywhere in the western conterminous United States, owing to its location just downwind of Mount St. Helens.”

“Save your batteries, we can talk on the phone when we get the livestock rounded up and get into the Op center.”

“Roger.”

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“So much for us not getting any ash. This reminds me of what it looked like in Yakima about 2 hours after the St. Helens eruption.”

“According to CNN, everything has been raised one level. That has to mean that Mt. St. Helens is erupting if it is at level 3 and if the other areas are at level 2, this is going to very bad.”

“How bad could it get?”

“I’m just guessing, but what if they all erupted? I’m not suggesting it’s likely, but the USGS seems to be suggesting it is. Level 1 is declared when significant anomalous conditions are recognized that could be indicative of an eventual hazardous volcanic event. Level 2 is declared when monitoring and evaluation indicate that processes are underway that has significant likelihood of culminating in hazardous volcanic activity but when the evidence does not indicate that a life- or property-threatening event is imminent. Level 3 is declared by when monitoring and evaluation indicate that precursory events have escalated to the point where a volcanic event with attendant volcanologic or hydrologic hazards threatening to life and property appears imminent or is underway.”

Jim and Becky Part III – Chapter 21 – We Have a Problem

“I believe we have a problem. It’s 1pm and its darker than the bottom of a mineshaft. Have you heard any more on CNN about what’s going on with all of the volcanoes?”

“Not really, they’re already trying to figure out who to blame for this one. FEMA hasn’t arrived yet because the volcanoes are still erupting. The President claims it’s the Republican’s fault because they lacked a comprehensive plan to stop the volcanoes from erupting.”

“At least he reacted faster than Bush.”

“We’re going to lose a lot of our crops.”

“Maybe, maybe not, it mainly depends on how fast the ash settles out. I’m willing to give it a couple days before I start worrying about that. Our first stage filters clogged with ash, have you had the same problem?”

“I didn’t check them.”

“It might be a good idea if you did. We removed ours, tapped out the dust and vacuumed them clean. It really improved the air flow.”

“I’ll check them out. How many reserve hours do you have in the batteries?”

“Maybe 24, we’re strictly rationing use of electricity. Besides some of these batteries are old. Is your wind turbine locked down too?”

“Yes, the automatic circuit kicked in several hours ago.”

“Gene, I think that we’ll be able to get by with a single generator and we can run each of them for a few hours before we advance the controller to the next unit. I believe we should try and keep the run time on them about equal.”

“Did you turn on your CD V-717?”

“We weren’t bombed.”

“Turn it on, we reading 600mR.”

“Yucca Mountain?”

“That or trouble with one of the nuclear power plants.”

“Ok, it’s on, we’re reading about 575mR. I haven’t heard anything on the TV about any increased radiation.”

“I’ve got the number for CNN, I’ll call them and see what they can tell me.”

“Fine, I’ll call the Washoe County EMA at the Sheriff’s Department.”

“I’ll get back to you.”

“No rush, we’ll just move everyone into the shelter until we get it sorted out. I really wonder what caused the ash to be radioactive. Terrorists, do you suppose?”

“They’ve been quiet for a long time.”

“True, but I never heard that they caught all of them involved in the Atlanta attack.”

“Come to think about it, I didn’t either.”

“Anything about any military alerts?”

“No, SINCGARS is quiet; do you suppose that they changed the codes?”

“I’ll ask Joe to check it out.”

“Get back to me.”

“When I know anything new, I will. Didn’t they say that Yucca Mountain would only release about 350mR per year?”

“That was the maximum allowed.”

“We really do have a problem, this is number 4.”

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“What’s the story on SINCGARS, Joe?”

“I’ll let you know when I find out. The Governor has activated the National Guard. Can you keep an eye on Marjorie’s kids?”

“Sure, they’re part of the extended family.”

“Tell Becky thanks, she saved my life.”

“What do you mean?”

“She’ll know. By the way, Jenna is missing and presumed dead. When we get back from Reno, Marjorie and I should be married.”

“Becky, Joe said to tell you thanks. He went on to say that Jenna was missing and presumed dead. He claimed that when Marge and he got back from Reno, they’d be married.”

“Does he know?”

“I think he was fishing. Anyway, he was lying, it hasn’t been 3 years.”

“Why would he do something like that?”

“Jenna’s disappearance is probably an open wound. If she were known to be dead, he’d know that it wasn’t about him and it would be better for his ego. If she ran off, that would mean she rejected him.”

“He’s just going to have to guess, I don’t know what he’s talking about.”

“There you go. This is one thing you’re going to have to live with the rest of your life.”

“It was self-defense.”

“I believe you honey, you’re preaching to the choir. I’d suggest we drop it, if you pursue it, the wound will just be reopened.”

“We have more to be concerned about than Jenna resting in the Garden, Jim. I don’t think the sun every came up.”

“It came and went, it just couldn’t cut through the ash.”

“Is it really radioactive?”

“650mR was the peak level. It’s down to 65mR now.”

“Yucca Mountain?”

“I doubt it; the wind is out of the west. We’re 250 miles north of Yucca Mountain.”

“Terrorists?”

“I have no idea. Maybe some pitchblende in the soil near one of the eruptions. Whatever it was the radiation is down and in 42 more hours, it will be at 6.5mR. There hasn’t been anything on the news about it.”

“Is this going to kill the crops?”

"I'm not worried, we harvested most of them. We may lose a few tomatoes, but the potatoes will be ok. We can wash off the melons and they'll be safe to eat. If we get 10cm of ash, that's about 4", we can plow it under and enrich the soil. More than that could be a problem."

"I understand the levels, 1, 2 and 3, but what are the color codes associated with volcanoes?"

"The Alaskan Volcano Observatory established color codes. Let me explain what I read. Green means that the volcano is in a quiet, "dormant" state, and that no eruption is anticipated. Yellow means that small earthquakes have been detected locally and (or) increased levels of volcanic gas emissions and that an eruption is possible in the next few weeks and may occur with little or no additional warning. Orange means that there have been increased numbers of local earthquakes. Extrusion of a lava dome or lava flows (non-explosive eruption) may be occurring and that an explosive eruption is possible within a few days and may occur with little or no warning. Ash plumes are not expected to reach 25,000 feet above sea level. Finally, Red means that strong earthquake activity detected even at distant monitoring stations. Explosive eruption may be in progress and that a major explosive eruption expected within 24 hours. Large ash plumes are expected to reach at least 25,000 feet above sea level."

"Why can't they have a single system?"

"It would be too easy to understand. That isn't the way that the government does things, Becky."

"What's going to happen?"

"If everything lets loose, a global climate change. We're talking about a potential of several thousand km³ of volcanic ash, perhaps as much as 5-6,000km³. We're also talking about more earthquakes. If a chain reaction occurs, several of the major faults in California could be affected. It might even spread to the New Madrid Fault in the Midwest."

"Are we going to have ocean-front property?"

"The San Andreas is a slip fault, I seriously doubt it."

"What about the movie *10.5*?"

"They didn't get anything right. It was almost as bad as *Meteor*."

"How long is this going to go on?"

"Until it quits. I'd imagine that we could go topside in 4-5 days. You can always go to the Op Center and see for yourself."

“Did I miss something or was this supposed to be the worst hurricane season in 25 years?”

“They’ve already had 6 Category 5 storms make landfall, the only thing you missed was being there.”

“This is more than enough, thank you.” (Educate and entertain, in that order.)

“What’s happening to the world?”

“I think that its po’d at the people.”

◦

Although they weren’t there to observe directly, all of the volcanoes in the Cascade Range eventually erupted. The Hayward and San Andreas Faults slipped about 2 meters each. Major calderas erupted, Yellowstone and Long Valley to name just two. There were also calderas forming volcanoes in the Cascade Range. God had started off with a perfect world and He was going to get it back to what He’d planned. The Americas and Europe took the blunt of God’s wrath. But, they don’t call it the Ring of Fire without a good reason. Protected as they were in the shelters, the residents of the farms weren’t at risk. Jim had guessed wrong, it was several days before they could exit the shelters and even then they had to wear the N-95 masks.

The crops were all dead, probably insufficient sunlight. They lost the remainder of the tomato crop, but they’d already dug the onions and the potatoes were still underground. In the weeks that followed, they salvaged what they could. The area around Reno ended up with ~ 6” of ash, 15cm. This was the worst series of natural disasters in the history of North America; Katrina had to step down. God made people tough, if it was possible to survive, mankind was up to it. No, the story isn’t over, we have to examine what it was like in the days, weeks and possibly years that followed.

◦

“What now?”

“Salvage what we can, Gene. We need to clear the ash off of everything before it rains. We also need to check the wind turbines and make sure they aren’t packed with ash and get them running. Finally, we need get the spuds out of the ground. I think we should plan on selling off everything in the warehouse, but we’re going to have to shut down the bakery until we can get the farms cleaned up.”

“Burr, it’s cold.”

"I was telling Becky that we're in for a climate change. I speculated that 6,000km³ of ash might be in the air. If I was even close, we're in for reduced sunlight for a couple of years, maybe longer. Did Joe ever call with the new codes for the SINCGARS?"

"He didn't call me."

"I'll ask Owen to look into it."

"Joe and Marjorie never reported in. I got the codes from a buddy in the Signals unit, but he says that he had no idea what happened to Joe and Marge."

"They'll have to come back, Marge left her kids."

"I wouldn't be so sure; they're 17 and 18, old enough to fend for themselves."

"Are they going to be ok?"

"Is anyone? They'll be as ok as the rest of us. At the moment, I'd say that our chances of making it though this are about 60%."

"Do we have enough feed and hay for the livestock?"

"Enough for a year. We'll have to plow the fields and plant grass so they have something to eat. We'd better plan on doing that now; it feels like there is snow in the air."

"The wind turbines?"

"Checked out and running. I called to get our fuel supplies topped off. Ted talked to Mel in Truckee and he can supply us with 2 more 10,000-gallon propane tanks and fill us up on propane. He told Ted that he didn't know if he could supply any more, however."

"What about the people who moved back to Reno?"

"They're trickling in one or two couples at a time. The Gazette-Journal ran an article questioning how long they'd have power and fuel in Reno."

"Just plow the ash under?"

"I plan to plow everything that we cultivated, disk, drag and seed it with grass. Everything except half the garden, I was going to leave those 10 acres lie fallow."

"It sounds to me like you're not planning on continuing the grocery wholesale."

"Jim, we'll be lucky to feed ourselves. We need to put in some snow fencing before the first big snowstorm. Otherwise, both farms will be inundated with snow. I don't really mind the snow except that we'll probably be pretty much limited in our travel. I'm going

to get Royce and Abel to start hauling those bundles of wood we packaged back from the warehouse. I'll run a going out of business sale ad in the Gazette-Journal."

What the situation on the grain bins?"

"They're full, but I don't expect any more deliveries."

"This is just like after WW III and the terrorist attacks, only worse. I hope we get most of the people that moved into Reno back on the farms. Do we have any means to activate the militia?"

"I'll get Marilyn on the phone and have her call everyone. Once they understand the seriousness of the situation, we should get most of them back. Do you have any suggestions?"

"Suggest that they acquire as much fuel as they can for their vehicles. When you send Royce and Abel into Reno, have them get all of the PRI-D that's available. They may have to drive to the marinas at Lake Tahoe. We're going to need at least 80 gallons a year of the PRI-D. Tell them to try and find some 55-gallon drums, if they can. We're also going to need about 5-gallons of PRI-G a year. They should be able to find some of the cases that have 4 one-gallon bottles."

"Anything else?"

"That's up to you. If it were I making the decision, I'd empty the warehouse and move everything back here."

"How about a compromise? We sell to people who come in while we're moving the stuff back here?"

"That should work, move the food first, the firewood is a renewable resource."

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In the end, they moved about 1/3 of the food and none of the wood back to the farms. Royce scored all the PRI-D and G they'd ever need at a couple marinas at Lake Tahoe. Of the families that moved back to Reno, 60-70% moved back to the farms, leaving them several empty trailers. Gene suggested that they leave it that way, many of the young people were of marrying age and they'd probably need the other trailers for future families. On December 31, 2004-January 1, 2005, Reno had record snowfalls, greater than anything in 15 years. In some places, snow around Reno accumulated to 6'. During the winter of 2011-2012, every record on the books was broken and probably would never be reached at any time in modern history. Reno accumulated 15' of snow in some places. On the farms, the only thing that kept the trailers from being buried was the 2 rows of snow fencing on each farm. During normal times, a person only had to drive an hour to get to some of the best skiing in the country. This winter, all you had to do was

open your front door. They didn't have any security problems; all of the roads were closed.

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"I called our Colorado suppliers; we won't be getting any wheat or corn deliveries."

"What about the suppliers from California?"

"Same story, nada. They all said it might be a couple of years."

"I thought the phones were out."

"The Iridium phones are still working, but I have no idea how much longer that will be true. I wouldn't count on being able to plant this year."

"In most abrupt climate change scenarios, they speculate that the worst snowfall will be the first year. It gets too cold to evaporate much moisture and the following years are expected to be cold and dry, followed by hot and dry."

"Don't believe everything you read, they're only guessing. What were the odds of Yellowstone blowing, 1 in 20,000? It was probably the same for Long Valley. I'm not a mathematician, but if I have it right, the odds of both happening at once would be 1 chance in 400 million (20,000 squared). I won't even speculate on the odds of all of the Cascade volcanoes erupting at once or the probability of all of the major faults in California letting go in the same year. If we have 20' of snow here, how much do you suppose that they have in Canada? This country gets most of its natural gas and LP from the Gulf and Canada. Put on your cast iron drawers, my friend, we're up to our butts in alligators."

"Gene, you're a ray of sunshine aren't you? Any more bad news?"

"If we can't get the livestock to pasture, our feed and hay will only last one more year."

"In another year, the snow should lessen and we might be able to pasture the livestock year round."

"Is that a promise?"

"I only promise when I can deliver. Didn't you ever see *The Rare Breed* (1966)?"

"Brian Keith?"

"Among others."

"What's the point?"

“The cattle in the movie survived a blizzard.”

“Vindicator didn’t.”

“He was English, maybe he wasn’t used to the weather.”

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“This is the first time in my life I’ve ever had to attend a 4th of July picnic indoors because there was snow on the ground.”

“It’s melting. We even have a few patches of grass coming up in the fields.”

“Enough to turn the livestock out?”

“Melting not melted.”

“How come the diesel fuel isn’t gelled?”

“In addition to the PRI-D, Royce added kerosene to keep it from gelling.”

It wasn’t like they didn’t have enough to worry about; global corporations were crafting emergency plans for remote work sites and stockpiles of masks and antiviral medicines in case dire predictions of worldwide bird flu pandemic came true. Businesses could face travel restrictions, a sharply reduced workforce and disruptions in supply chains if an especially deadly influenza circles the globe and wreaks havoc for months. Flu pandemics "are a very different set of circumstances than a typical crisis like a bomb or even a hurricane. They play out over a much longer period of time," said Tim Daniel, chief operating officer of International SOS, a firm that helps businesses manage health and safety risks for workers.

The H5N1 avian flu virus had killed more than 60 people in Asia. If the virus became easy to pass from person to person, some experts predicted up to 50 percent of people where the virus was circulating could become ill, and 5 percent could die. Sick workers would be quarantined, and others would have to stay home to care for ill relatives or children if schools were closed as a protective measure. Travel also could be limited in and out of Asia or other areas where the virus was active. What does this have to do with the rule of 3’s? Darned if I know, I lost count. This virus shouldn’t be a problem in the US; the northern half was snowbound on the 4th of July. And the southern half was experiencing a drought. Except for the coasts that were getting battered by more hurricanes. Off hand, I’d say the either God or Mother Nature was very angry, maybe both. Another flu pandemic? Ask yourself how many dire predictions there have been in the last 10 years.

“Do you want to go harvest firewood?”

"It's a sea of mud, except where there's snow. Each farm has 20,000-gallons of propane. The only two families that depend on wood for heat are you and I. We have enough logs stored to last until everything dries out. Let's take the year off."

"Do you play pinochle?"

"Hearts and gin rummy."

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"Jimmy and Becky are supposed to start Kindergarten this year."

"I thought that they said all of the schools were closed."

"They are that's the problem."

"What do you want me to do Becky; I was never very good in math?"

"We have an empty classroom building how about we use it for a school?"

"You can't use a classroom for a classroom, OSHA would have a fit."

"No they won't."

"Why not?"

"If we can't get there, they can't get here. Besides we have 2 teachers among the families. The kids that just graduated from high school this past spring can help out, they couldn't have forgotten everything they learned this soon. Is it TEOTWAWKI yet?"

"That happened when the Chinese bombed us, this is just the continuing saga. In 1992, if you had asked the people in Homestead, Florida they'd have told you Andrew had ended the world. If you asked the survivors of Ivan or Katrina the same question, they would have answered the same. If all of our homes got wiped out, we'd feel the same way. The thing you have to realize, honey, is that TEOTWAWKI occurs every day, somewhere."

"What about the school?"

"If we have the classroom and a couple of teachers, we should be able to get by. We don't have any books, do we?"

"The teachers have a few, I think we can get by. It would be nice if you could get into Reno and get more, of course. We'll need chalkboards for the classroom too. Plus chalk, paper and pencils. Could you do that, Jim?"

“If you can get a list of books and supplies, I’ll get together with Gene, Royce and Abel and we’ll figure something out. You’re forgetting about Davy, he needs to start school too. Was Mandy ever a teacher?”

“I’ll ask, I really don’t know. It doesn’t really matter with the younger children.”

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Reno didn’t have a Staples store. Reno had Wal-Marts, 2 Costco’s and half a dozen firms that sold office supplies. They made do. Given a list of books, the 5 men, including Jeb, scoured the city, finding what it would take to set up home schooling. They borrowed chalkboards from a closed school. The classroom was cleaned up and repainted, ready for school before Labor Day. A year had passed since the earthquake on the Cascadian Subduction Zone and Yellowstone hadn’t erupted until Thanksgiving 2011. Around Christmas 2011, the New Madrid Fault had shaken, triggering other quakes to the east. The spring had allowed them to get the turbines back up and they drove through snow to clear out the warehouse in Reno, bringing home what they didn’t sell. As mentioned, people were stocking up and they moved none of the wood and only 30-35% of the food inventory back from the warehouse.

Food wouldn’t be a problem for several years because they had the grain bins. They also had the crop from 2011, to the extent that they were able to harvest it. Late season yields were lost except for the potato crop and the beans. Moreover, they had chickens, hogs and cattle to butcher, remember? Fuel would prove to be the biggest problem because while they had a total of 160,000-gallons of diesel and 10,000-gallons of gasoline, it was and would remain, irreplaceable for a couple of years. On the other side of the coin, they didn’t need diesel fuel to generate electricity most of the time because of the hurriedly installed wind turbines.

Speaking of coins, those safes in the armories of the two shelters were bulging; even after Jim and Becky, Gene and Marilyn, had spent a fortune on generators, wind turbines, diesel fuel and the medical clinic. The late selloff of the warehouse inventory and the previous year’s sales had replaced a substantial portion of what they had spent. The two farms had been regular money machines. When they went to Reno for school supplies they also got together with that 3rd year resident, surgical residency takes 5 years or so I’m told, and secured large quantities of the prescription drugs that the residents of the two farms used. Since Jim and Becky had paid for the clinic, Gene and Marilyn bought the medications. It was more than fair; some medications cost \$5 a pill, like Avandia. Avandia was one of those drugs that were freely available from physicians prior to hurricane Katrina and only available by prescription thereafter. It costs \$320 for 60 pills. Some antibiotics cost about \$10 a pill, so perhaps Avandia was a bargain. Not! You usually took the 5 or 6 antibiotic pills on a rare occasion, while taking Avandia was an everyday occurrence. Maximum dosage was 4mg BID or 8mg QD. In plain English, Avandia cost a person \$1,825 a year. It hadn’t been difficult for Gene to spend \$25,000 and it had all fit in the back of his pickup.

“How many teachers did we end up with?”

“Three teachers and 3 assistants. You got enough books so we have every grade covered, thank you.”

“You’re welcome. Now you have a pharmacy for the clinic too. I assume that we have enough?”

“For this year we do. We should have doubled up.”

“We can go back and Gene and I can each lay out another \$25 grand, would that be better?”

“\$50 grand apiece would be better, that would cover us for the life of the drugs. I hope they get some of the pharmaceutical firms back up and running.”

“Do you know what, Becky? Most of the drugs are recent inventions. People must have used something before the drug companies came on the scene in a big way. Maybe we’d better look into herbal remedies.”

“Jim the history of the modern pharmaceutical industry (early 19th century - 1890s) isn’t that long, I’ll explain:

Early 19th century: Drugs were isolated from natural products (opium from poppy, anti-malarial quinine from the cinchona tree).

1850s-1880s: Pasteur's theories inspired Swiss and German pharmaceutical companies to develop a wide range of dyes that selectively targeted harmful bacteria.

Beginning of 1890: Successful research in biological cures for diphtheria and many other serious diseases transformed small German drug stores into scientific factories competing to find more cures.

Transformation into a modern industry (1890s-World War II)

1899: Sponsored by German Bayer Company, Felix Hofmann synthesized acetylsalicylic acid, launched as Aspirin, a registered trademark that quickly became popular worldwide and remains popular today.

Early 20th century: Government regulation was more concerned with proof of safety of drugs; regulations in the US were stricter than in Europe. Patent laws differed from country to country but remained underdeveloped. In Germany, the focus was on protecting processes, while in Britain it was protecting products.

1905: Paul Ehrlich, funded by a German company Hoechst, introduced a pharmaceutical, Salvarsan, or the magic bullet, designed to specifically destroy syphilis. This was the first medicine created by pharmaceutical companies to treat the cause of disease and not just alleviate symptoms.

During World War I: Suffering from a shortage of medicines, which were mainly produced in Germany, the US government launched an extensive modern, research-based pharmaceutical industry.

1928: Fleming discovered penicillin, the first really safe antibiotic.

The Golden Era (end of WWII – early 1980s)

World War II: Five American pharmaceutical companies, Abbott, Merck, Pfizer, Squibb and Winthrop, commercially developed and produced penicillin for wartime purposes. The end of World War II marked the beginning of the golden age of the pharmaceutical industry as the 1940s witnessed, in addition to an American commitment to biomedical research, the rise of the welfare state in Europe, which led to a large expansion in demand for healthcare.

1950s: Oral contraceptives, antihistamines, antidepressants, diuretics were produced and all were patented. (Some suggest that the oral contraceptives caused the decline of America.)

Within 25 years, pharmaceutical companies transformed from commodity pharmaceuticals into research and marketing intensive businesses heavily dependent on brand names. Patent laws developed to guarantee the protection of these brands.

Changing course of success (1980s- present)

1980s: Rise in the demand for drugs led to big and fast-growing public expenditure, which encouraged states to introduce new regulations of cost containment and assist marketing in substituting generic drugs.

Research and development (R&D) costs rose, with only less than a third of products earning sufficient revenues to recover average R&D costs.

1990s: Growth rates in the pharmaceutical industry slowed down due to a declining number of wonder drugs such as penicillin. The success of biotechnology firms in producing successful drugs, vaccines, and diagnostic tests made it cheaper for pharmaceutical companies to buy a whole biotechnology company, including its products, in the market as well as the late stages of clinical trials rather than building new competencies within the pharmaceutical company.

2000-present: Pharmaceutical companies focus primarily on product-based acquisitions rather than technology platforms. Western pharmaceutical companies are strengthening

their commercial position in Japan, while the generic drugs sector is changing from a regional to a global market.”

“If that’s the case, it shouldn’t be difficult to figure out what people used before there were pharmaceuticals.”

Ginkgo Biloba – The growing body of research suggests that the extract from the leaves of the oldest tree on earth promotes optimal blood circulation to the brain and supports memory and concentration functions. You know this supplement as Ginkgo biloba, one of the five top-selling herbs in the US. A powerful free radical scavenger, ginkgo helps protect blood vessels and optimizes the amount of oxygen supplied to brain cells. It may also help increase blood flow to the extremities.

BE CAREFUL!!! If you take blood-thinning medications, taking Ginkgo biloba could kill you because of its anti-platelet effects. The same Pharmacologist also warns of: St. John's wort, Ephedra, Ginseng and Kava. Ephedra is now illegal.

Meanwhile Jim and Gene bought the drugs while they were available. The problem was that the continual spending was beginning to bite. The grocery warehouse was shut down and until the weather permitted, it wouldn’t reopen. It had been their only source of income. Where is Gunny Highway when you needed him?

Gunny Highway was the figment of the imagination of James Carabatsos and Joseph Stinson. Carabatsos served with the 1st Air Cavalry Division in Vietnam in 1968-1969. He also wrote The Lost Battalion, Hamburger Hill, No Mercy, Beyond the Reef, Underground Aces and Heroes.

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“We told these fellows that there was a killer hurricane heading right toward New Orleans,” Leo Bosner, a 26-year FEMA employee and union leader told CNN. “We had done our job, but they didn’t do theirs.”

“New Orleans is of particular concern because much of that city lies below sea level,” he warned in his daily alert to Homeland Security secretary Michael Chertoff, then-FEMA chief Michael Brown and other Bush administration officials.

“If the hurricane winds blow from a certain direction, there are dire predictions of what may happen in the city,” it said.

“I must say, this storm is much, much bigger than anyone expected. The collapse of a significant portion of the levee leading to the fast flooding of the city was not envisioned. I will tell you, that really that – that perfect storm of combination of catastrophes exceeded the foresight of the planners and maybe anybody's foresight.”

Goodbye Mr. Chertoff, go back to being a 2nd rate lawyer at Latham & Watkins. Chertoff is the co-author, along with Viet Dinh, of the USA PATRIOT Act, signed into law October 26, 2001. That explains everything.

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Despite millions of dollars spent in crisis management drills and dozens of plans to deal with earthquakes and other calamities, Southern California emergency preparedness agencies have done little to plan for mass displacement and destruction across a broad swath of the region on the scale of Hurricane Katrina, according to interviews with state and local authorities. Because the region is so huge and most damage from earthquakes and fires typically is relatively localized, most of the region's planning is based on the assumption that damage will be confined to one or two areas, several officials said.

Detailed plans to deal with a massive emergency – one that displaces more than 300,000 people – have not been developed since the end of the Cold War, said Stephen Sellers, head of Southern California operations for the state Office of Emergency Services. Sellers and others say a tragedy on that scale goes beyond many worst-case scenarios and would include a chemical or nuclear attack, or a catastrophic earthquake on one of the faults that run directly under Los Angeles, such as Newport-Inglewood or Puente Hills.

Computer models released in May by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Southern California Earthquake Center found that a magnitude 7.5 quake along the Puente Hills fault could kill as many as 18,000 people, injure up to 268,000 and displace as many as 735,000 families. A study by the state Division of Mines and Geology found that a 7.0 temblor on the Newport-Inglewood fault would block freeways, sharply curtail flights at LAX, reduce the number of hospital beds by a third and knock out major power plants for days.

The difficulty of dealing with the volume of displaced people and downed services after Hurricane Katrina has caused some officials of emergency response agencies to think anew. Katrina “just shattered all of our planning assumptions,” said Sharon Grigsby, who heads bioterrorism response for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. “We certainly should be planning for a larger-scale event than we have focused on up to now.”

If major portions of the city have been damaged and huge numbers of people displaced or hurt, it could take several days – perhaps up to a week – for government and charitable agencies to respond, several officials said. For that reason, it is all the more important that residents keep survival kits at home, said Constance Perett, director of the Office of Emergency Management for Los Angeles County. In the past, officials had recommended that residents keep three days' worth of food, water, first aid and other items in a safe place in or near their homes. But in the wake of Katrina, Perett is recommending that everyone keep seven days' worth of supplies.

Damage from a major quake in the heart of Los Angeles – where buildings and infrastructures are older and urban faults like Newport-Inglewood and Puente Hills stretch for miles through densely populated areas – would dwarf the destruction from Northridge, said Lucy Jones, scientist in charge of Southern California for the US Geological Survey. “How do you get people to understand that Northridge was actually a little earthquake?” she said. “Puente Hills would be so much worse than Northridge.”

Because some firefighters from other parts of the state could not connect their rigs to Oakland’s hydrants during a devastating fire there in 1991, the law also mandated that emergency agencies buy compatible equipment.

More than 900 hospitals across California do not meet seismic safety standards, and the state recently extended a 2008 deadline for many of them to comply. In addition, the county's trauma care system is stretched extremely thin. There are just 13 trauma centers in the county, down from 22 in 1985. Another agency stretched thin is the city of Los Angeles Emergency Preparedness Department, which has 18 employees. By contrast, New York has 125 employees, said Ellis Stanley, the department’s general manager.

I keep telling you; I don’t make this stuff up. If you can’t spell, don’t worry about it, neither can the LA Times: China Changes Course – The government has set itself a monumental task ahead of the 2008 Olympics: teaching the nation’s 1 billion people how to be polite. The correct spelling, of course, is ‘course’. I’d write them a letter, but if I spelled everything correctly, they’d never understand it. Why do I read the LA Times? I read what they say, and do the opposite. FT calls it Pravda West and the NY Times, Pravda East. He’s a very smart man.

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Do you suppose that George ask his pal Brownie to resign? That’s how Brownie lost his previous job, cleaning out the horse stalls or whatever. Before joining the DHS/FEMA, Brown was the Judges and Stewards Commissioner for the International Arabian Horse Association, (IAHA), from 1989-2001. After numerous lawsuits were filed against the organization over disciplinary actions, Brown was forced to resign. President Bush publicly praised Brown’s handling of the disaster, saying “Brownie, you're doing a heck of a job.”

Senior officials in Louisiana’s emergency planning agency already were awaiting trial over allegations stemming from a federal investigation into waste, mismanagement and missing funds when Hurricane Katrina struck. And federal auditors are still trying to track as much as \$60 million in unaccounted for funds that were funneled to the state from the Federal Emergency Management Agency dating back to 1998. In March 2005, FEMA demanded that Louisiana repay \$30.4 million to the federal government.

The problems are particularly worrisome, federal officials said, because they involve the Louisiana Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, the agency that will administer much of the billions in federal aid anticipated for victims of Katrina. Earlier this week, federal Homeland Security officials announced they would send 30 investigators and auditors to the Gulf Coast to ensure relief funds were properly spent.

Details of the ongoing criminal investigations come from two reports by the inspector general's office in the US Department of Homeland Security, which oversees FEMA, as well as in state audits, and interviews this week with federal and state officials. The reports were prepared by the federal agency's field office in Denton, Texas, and cover 1998 to 2003. Improper expenditures previously identified by auditors include a parka, a briefcase and a trip to Germany. Ray and Kathy were doing one hell of a job... The feds ended up writing off the \$100 million; it was nothing when the total price tag went over \$200 billion.

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There weren't enough zero's to explain the cost of the latest disaster, so nobody bothered to count. This was truly a case of everyone being on their own. They had about 2' of ash in New Washington, compared to the 6" in Reno. Winter came early in 2012, but was dry. The frozen snow allowed them to finally harvest timber, a task that consumed the entire winter. In truth, there wasn't anything else that they could do. The people split and wrapped the firewood and restarted the bakery, figuring that at least they could supply firewood and bread to the people of Reno. What remained of the ground grain was also returned to the warehouse; after all they had two years' worth of supplies, possibly more, on the farms to feed their residents.

Sixty-five percent of the people had moved to Reno after the Independence movement and about the same percentage of them returned to the farm, making the total population about 155. And that didn't include Joe and Marge for they never came back. Gene called every number he had in his large Rolodex. Eventually he found someone in California with rice and his coffee supplier managed to survive the disaster. He couldn't supply the same 'good' grade of coffee, but Gene was willing to take whatever he had. By limiting the bakery to a single shift they could supply about 375 loaves of bread to Reno once again. People were hungry and they were willing to take anything available, even the MREs that the Nevada National Guard could supply.

In 1980 when Mt. St. Helens erupted, Conservation officials estimated that several thousand animals were killed by the eruption. Now they had multiple eruptions but the surviving game had migrated east and the area in and around Reno had more than its share. Some people died because the utilities were out again, but having been through 2 catastrophes, there were many home generators in the city, enough so that they could power the essential systems, like St. Mary's and the other hospitals. The old claim that those who forget history were condemned to repeat it didn't have much of an audience. The point of being prepared occasionally gets lost on large communities, but in truth, Reno wasn't that big.

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“Did you see the snow is melting? If it isn’t too muddy, we’ll be able to plant.”

“We can’t do beans, partner, we need the pasture for the livestock. What do you think 10-acre gardens?”

“Absolutely, we can sell everything we grow. How about putting in 30 acres of beans on each farm? We have an obligation to help the others.”

“Don’t be disappointed if our yields are down. Still, if we can grow a ton of beans per acre, it will feed a lot of people. By the way, was there anyone that Marilyn didn’t talk to on the radio over the winter?”

“Didn’t they used to have some kind of card they exchanged? QSO cards or something like that? She talked to people in 173 countries, not bad for someone who isn’t a ham.”

“How far back did we regress?”

“Maybe 100 years, possibly a little less. Parts of Europe took a beating and she even talked to a guy in Moscow. His English was a little broken but if she understood right, even some of them survived. You were right about a global climate change. According to Marilyn, the average temperature fell from anywhere between 10°C and 20°C. I know that 10°C=40°F and 20°C=68°F. The formula is: $((\text{Deg F}) - 32) \times (5/9) = \text{Deg C}$. Therefore the reverse should be $((\text{Deg C}) \times (9/5)) + 32 = \text{Deg. F}$, but I was never very good at math.”

“Did Marilyn learn anything about fuel supplies?”

“Yes, if we don’t have it, we won’t be getting it for several years, if ever.”

“Then all of the money we spent on the generators was wasted, Gene.”

“Not necessarily, we can make biodiesel from almost any kind of fat, animal or vegetable. That means that we can convert our used lard and bacon fat to diesel and probably use the beef tallow. Before the world went to hell in a handcart, you could buy biodiesel conversion machines. Give me some time and I’ll find one. If I can’t, we’ll build our own. All you need is alcohol and lye to make the conversion.”

“Can we buy some equipment?”

“We can try.”

If a person can produce 40 gallons of biodiesel a day, they are producing 1,216 gallons a month or 14,600 gallons a year. Lye wasn’t easy to find, they took Red Devil Lye off

the market. Alcohol can be produced from anything with sugar in it. All you need after that is some sort of vegetable oil and an instruction book. Note to self: add a case of Sodium Hydroxide (caustic soda) to the survival supplies. How much fuel do you use in a year, 500-600-gallons? If you have a basement or garage, doctor diesel has the perfect rig. You can make 40 gallons every 24 hours and the equipment costs \$2,995. Add a heater for \$295 and a second tank for only \$1000 (if purchased with the FuelMeister). Gene bought one for each farm but installed both in an empty classroom on his farm.

In the year after an abrupt climate change caused by a volcanic eruption or 12, there should be lots of subsoil moisture. The problem will be the lack of sunshine. But if you've decided to make biodiesel using your own alcohol, you'll have plenty of moonshine. Almost any kind of grain, barley can be used to make moonshine, but if you want to drink the leftovers, use 51% corn wheat, and malted barley and store in a charred white oak casks for a few years. The result will be called bourbon. 2 for the price of 1 and you can sell it as cough syrup. Lye was easy to find and they already made cough syrup, making for one less problem to solve.

TEOTWAWKI came early in these people's lives, yet here they were 3 disasters later getting by. Although it may be the end of the word as we know it, that doesn't mean it's the end of the world.

Never in the field of human conflict has so much, been owed by so many, to so few.

He also said, *From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic an iron curtain has descended across the Continent.*

The day may dawn when fair play, love for one's fellow men, respect for justice and freedom, will enable tormented generations to march forth triumphant from the hideous epoch in which we have to dwell. Meanwhile, never flinch, never weary, never despair.

Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing ever happened.

There are a terrible lot of lies going around the world, and the worst of it is half of them are true.

Sir, you are drunk.

And you, madam, are ugly. But in the morning I shall be sober.

If you were my husband, I'd poison your tea.

If I were your husband, I'd drink it.

A man of some wit. He understood getting by in calamity.

o

The real formula is a pound of prevention and an ounce of cure. The old saying gave you a choice, an ounce of prevention or a pound of cure. There are real life examples that come to mind, upgrading the levee system \$17 billion, repairing New Orleans, \$200 billion, including upgrading the levee system. 200 divided by 17 is about 12. And we're talking about spending lots of gold here so the ratio is correct. Surviving 4 disasters: Priceless. Finding used vegetable oil after the 4th disaster: almost impossible. The only solution was to go into the dead zone.

"My roaster said that he had no way to deliver the roasted coffee beans."

"What about the rice?"

"They have several tons stored in a warehouse, but no way to deliver it."

"We're going to need tractor-trailer rigs and a lot of luck, where are they located?"

"The rice warehouse is in the Big Valley, the roaster nearer the coast."

We'll take the 4 LAV-25s after we dismount the Stingers and a convoy of trucks. Do you have any idea where we can find empty tankers?"

"Reno, where else?"

"How many are available?"

"One, but it's a double bottomed rig, 16,000 gallons."

"Any suggestions?"

"I once read that an ideal place to find used vegetable oil in large quantities was food processors."

"Can we find a second Chevron tanker?"

"What's the story on the biodiesel units?"

"The company is east of the Mississippi, they have them, but there's no way to ship them. I ordered two complete units and told them we'd pick them up."

"What do you want to do?"

"Send the V-100s and a 5-ton truck to the Midwest and take the LAV-25's, tanker, and semis to California."

"What about wheat and corn?"

“Do you want to locate some grain trucks and send them to Colorado? We could use the Hummers for escort duty.”

Jim and Becky Part III – Chapter 22 – IAO

“We need to convert the Hummers for TOW and Stinger units to something simpler, possibly armed with machine guns. Can we do it?”

“I’ll ask Owen.”

“I can do it; do we have the machine guns? We can pull the TOWs and replace those; I doubt we’ll run into any armor.”

“I think we’re ill-suited with the equipment we have, do you suppose one of your buddies with the NNG, would be willing to swap HMMWVs? I rather have M1026A1 Armament carriers, and I don’t really care if they have .30 cal, .50 cal or Mk 19’s.”

“If you want to give up all of the reloads along with the vehicles, I can probably talk someone into making the swap.”

“See what you can do, we’ll keep 2 of each model of the HMMWVs just the way they are and swap out 2 of each. The minute we give all of our heavy armaments away, we’ll need them. Be sure and pull the extra communications gear.”

The result was one Hummer with a Mark 19, one with a M2HB and 2 with M240s. The V-100s already had M-60s, M2HBs and Mk-19s.

◦

Back in 2005, one broadcaster revealed that the military had 59 million MREs available. If you assumed that a soldier ate three a day and that our total force in Afghanistan and Iraq was 200,000 you could then conclude that there were enough MREs available in inventory to supply the troops for ~100 days. If they gave half of those to the people on the Gulf Coast, what were our troops going to eat, sand?

Around the time they buried one of the oldest living Buffalo Soldiers in Arlington National Cemetery, he died at 111, one media outlet suggested that there was a race war brewing. Apparently they were getting bored with reporting about Katrina, and wanted something more interesting to report. If there wasn’t a story, you created one. This race war crap was usually reserved to the websites of a few white supremacists. They had a Bible in one hand, a gun in the other and hate coming out of their mouths.

◦

I am convinced that democracy cannot be exported from one country to another. Just as you cannot export revolution, you cannot export ideology. We're not prepared to listen to teaching or tutoring. That is inadmissible, Putin said. (Robert Kennedy said the same thing 40 years earlier.)

On the night of Sunday, Sept. 4, Hartman said he was summoned to back up officers confronting at least seven snipers in a motel near the Danziger Bridge. Police later said the gunmen had been firing on contractors traveling under police escort to repair a levee break. Hartman said they also shot at rescuers launching boats from a flooded roadway. With police-issued weapons and ammunition in short supply, Hartman said, some officers fired guns and ammunition brought from home. "Everybody brought along their own toys – AK-47s, SKSs [carbines], hunting rifles," he said. After a long shootout, four snipers lay dead and a fifth was mortally wounded, police said. "Bunch of crack heads," Hartman said later.

o

"Who taught you math?"

"I learned it from a movie."

"Oh." (If you understand, you're older than dirt and have a very good memory, for music. I wonder who sang the song in which movie?)

*Two and two are four
Four and four are eight
Eight and eight are sixteen
Sixteen and sixteen are thirty-two
Inchworm, inchworm
Measuring the marigold
You and your arithmetic
You'll probably go far
Inchworm, inchworm
Measuring the marigold
Seems to me you'd stop and see
How beautiful they are*

The Inchworm. Can't remember? Here's a clue:

*Thumbalina, Thumbalina tiny little thing
Thumbalina dance, Thumbalina sing
Thumbalina what's the difference if you're very small?
When your heart is full of love you're nine feet tall
Though you're no bigger than my thumb
Than my thumb, than my thumb
Sweet Thumbalina don't be glum
Now now now, ah ah ah, come come come
Thumbalina, Thumbalina tiny little thing
Thumbalina dance, Thumbalina sing
Thumbalina what's the difference if you're very small?
When your heart is full of love you're nine feet tall*

*Though you're no bigger than my toe
Than my toe, than my toe
Sweet Thumbalina keep that glow
And you'll grow and you'll grow and you'll grow
Thumbalina, Thumbalina tiny little thing
Thumbalina dance, Thumbalina sing
Thumbalina what's the difference if you're very small?
When your heart is full of love you're nine feet tall
(See what happens when you get senile?)*

o

The songs were sung by Danny Kaye in *Hans Christian Andersen*. We all learn from our mistakes. Katrina made LA realize that when the big one came, they wouldn't be prepared. They were right, when the big one came, they weren't. They referred remedial action to a committee. Don't you know that, *In all the towns and all the cities, there are no statues to committees?* The people that didn't die in the attack by the Chinese wished they had.

"We're here to pick up 2 FuelMeister units with the extra heaters and second tanks."

"Did you order them?"

"We're from Reno."

"I have them set aside, do you think you have enough guns?"

"What are you, one of those liberals?"

"No, just curious. Who are you expecting to attack you, the Army?"

"If we'd have expected that, we'd have brought the Hummers equipped with TOWs and Stingers."

"Who are you guys?"

"Ever heard of the Devil's Brigade?"

"Saw the movie. That will be \$8,580 plus \$622.05 tax."

Gene never found the Diesel Doctor; he was located somewhere in Northern California, Area Code 530. However, Marysville was in the same area code and they found another company that sold the FuelMeister unit and accessories for the same price. Note to self; have it delivered next time to save \$622.05. Make sure the delivery company is an agent of the seller.

o

“Who are we sending to Colorado?”

“Anyone willing to go. If we send 2 V-100s, 4 Hummers and 3 semis, we’ll need about 17 people, minimum.”

“And how many will we need to get the rice and the coffee?”

“4 LAV-25s and 3 semis, 15 people.”

“Are the roads clear?”

“We made it to Marysville. That guy was awful nosey, wanted to know about the Hummers.”

“What did you tell him?”

“Not much, he wasn’t paying attention. He was more worried about collecting the California Sales Tax. I think all of the guns made him nervous.”

“Where is the coffee supplier?”

“Capitola, CA right smack dab on Monterey Bay. Capitola Coffee Roasters.”

“What about the Rice warehouse?”

“That’s closer, Sacramento.”

“Why don’t we split them up and send 2 LAVs and one truck to Capitola and the other 2 LAVs and 2 semis to Sacramento? If they can’t get a full semi of coffee, they can stop in Sacramento on the way back and load more rice.”

“I’ll go along with that, they can radio on their way back from Capitola and let us know if they’re full or not. We’ll time the pickup in Sacramento to coincide with them reaching the city.”

“Did you find something to haul wheat and corn in?”

“The only problem is that the grain bins are fairly full and won’t hold 3 truckloads of grain. We’re going to need to start running 3 shifts fulltime to make room. The guy in Colorado told me we could have 2 truckloads of each, but I could only find 3 of the grain trailers. That means 2 trips and we’re going to burn a lot of fuel.”

“Did you get any used oil when you went to Marysville?”

“I think everyone in that town has one of the biodiesel units, we didn’t come up with a drop. I’ve got Marilyn searching all of the Yellow Pages looking for food producers who used oil to process foods.”

“She shouldn’t have any trouble, I heard somewhere that there were 90 companies in the Big Valley that produced things like corn chips, potatoes chips and other snacks. One trailer load of used oil would keep those 2 biodiesel units going for nearly a year.”

“Should we have purchased more? He had more, I’m sure all we would have had to do was order them.”

“Tell him we’ll take 14 more units if he’ll deliver them personally. At \$622.05 a pair in tax, we’ll get one for free. That would increase our production to 640 gallons a day and we could always sell what we don’t burn. We could probably recover the cost in a few months.”

“Jim, I think that I’ve rubbed off on you?”

“Why would you say that?”

“I took me 8 years in business before I started to figure the percentages like you are now. You’re doing it in 5.”

“You must be a good teacher, partner.”

If they could produce biodiesel for \$0.50 a gallon, it would be economical to sell all of their wind-produced electricity to the city of Reno, 1mW, and power the farm with their generators. The utility company in Reno would just mark up the cost of the purchased electricity and pass it along to consumers. 1mW would power up to 138 homes (based on California), on average. The average household usage of electricity in the US in 2000 was 11,400 KWHrs, which includes urban apartments etc. Specifically, year 2000 residential sale of electricity = 1,193,380 million KWHrs. Number of US Households in 2000 was 104,700,000 (US Census Bureau). Average annual usage per household varies widely across the United States. In 1999 California had an average annual usage of approximately 7200 KWHrs, Illinois had an average annual usage of around 9600 KWHrs, while Florida had an average annual usage of around 13,800 KWHrs.

On the subject of generators, I didn’t get specific on what they bought. They were the 160kw standby, 145kw prime Kohler model 150REOZJB with the single-phase 120/240V alternators. Kohler offered accessories that allowed for a paralleling system and each farm had a set of 4 generators. The maximum rated output of the wind turbine was 600kW although the manufacturer referred to the system as a 500kW system. More importantly everything worked. Fuel use for 4 generators ranged from about 13gph at 25% power to 40gph at full power. Running 4 generators at 100% capacity used 960-gallons of diesel in 24 hours, about 3 times as much as they could produce in the same period. An average is your enemy, because no one’s power usage is average. Especial-

ly when you have strict rationing in place. Interestingly enough the man who sold the biodiesel units also sold diesel-fueled furnaces and other appliances including on-demand diesel-fueled water heaters.

The only easily renewable resource they had was wood. It became apparent that with the extremely cold weather, their supply of propane wouldn't last as long as they wanted. It therefore became necessary to replace the furnaces with wood burning furnaces, not an easy task when you live in a 16'x70' mobile home. A high efficiency wood heater was available in Reno. It was the Drolet Savannah 44,000 BTU Wood Stove, Model# DB03020. The stove was EPA certified and mobile home approved. A blower was included and already mounted. Stove features high-quality $\frac{5}{16}$ " top, stainless steel baffle, cast iron door, adjustable door handle and king-size ash drawer, with a metallic black finish. It accepted logs up to 19in. long; the firebox held 1.5 ft² and it was UL approved. They were rated to heat up to 1,500ft² and the homes were only 1,120ft². Gene got a discount on 40 stoves. The stoves were manufactured in Canada. Once the wood burning heaters/stoves were installed the LP/Propane powered furnaces were shut down. The hot water heaters and propane kitchen stoves used so little fuel in comparison; it wasn't economical to replace them.

"Mel called, he has more propane."

"How much?"

"He told Ted that he could give each of us one load, 3,000-gallons, at \$3.75 a gallon."

"Ouch. Well with the wood stoves for heating we may get to the point that the propane tanks are full. I suppose that we'd better go ahead and get the loads."

"Do we have enough wood for 42 stoves/furnaces and 2 kitchen stoves?"

"We could always harvest more."

"Where do we stand on fuels?"

With the loads of propane we're getting about 13,000-gallons each. The diesel fuel tanks are full; I've been mixing the biodiesel in with the #2 diesel fuel. We have about 4,500-gallons of gasoline each, the chainsaws don't use all that much. The utility company in Reno is being a stinker about the electricity; they won't buy it, only give us credits against usage."

"What did you tell them?"

"My exact words were *shove it*. When they come begging, I'll agree to sell them our excess wind generated juice and not tell them that we could go to generators in an emergency. Jim, if you consider that for both farms, we'd have to run 4 of the generators at nearly full capacity, we'd use 960 less 360-gallons of diesel a day. We could only run for

267 days before we exhausted our diesel. Even if we cut back, I doubt we could run for more than a year.”

“Who are you selling our biodiesel production to?”

“I topping off the hospitals first and then the Washoe County and Reno City motor polls. I talked to both the Sheriff and the Chief of Police and agreed to sell them the diesel for \$2.50 a gallon. I’m selling it to the hospitals for \$2.00 a gallon. And, I’m not worrying about the motor fuel taxes they can pay those themselves. I know that I’m ok on the hospitals; their fuel is for non-road use. The County and the City will just have to work something out; they’re the ones with the guns.”

“Has there been any trouble mixing the biodiesel with the regular #2 diesel fuel?”

“Some, we’ve been changing filters and some other things more often, but the vehicles should be about cleaned out. That stuff really cleans out the fuel tanks and the engines.”

“Would either the city or county swap 1,000-gallons of gasoline for an equal amount of diesel?”

“Their cars are mostly gas burners, I doubt it.”

“The reason I asked is that with more wood burning stoves to fuel, we’re going to be burning more of the gas.”

“There has to be some gas somewhere, how about the marinas at Lake Tahoe?”

“Check it out, pay the going rate and buy all they will sell us.”

“All of the Reno stations are limiting purchases to 10-gallons per customer, but they should have run out of gasoline a long time ago. I have a couple of friends who might be willing to tell me where they’re getting resupplied.”

“By all means ask. And if you find a source, buy all they will sell. We can always get more underground gasoline tanks. I’ll get on the phone and try and line up a couple of the 15,000-gallon size, one for each of us.”

“You realize, of course, that if someone were to drop a bomb on either farm, it would probably wipe out the entire housing area, the classrooms and barns.”

“Yeah, but only the Air Force, Navy and Marines have bombers and I can’t see why they would want to do that. Anyway, who knows how much fuel we have stored?”

“Joe and Marge do. If the military ever picks them up for failing to report, they could easily try and bargain their way out of trouble.”

“Any idea where they ended up?”

“When I was at the Sheriff’s Department, I had a buddy run a search on Joe’s license plate. He got a parking ticket 2 months ago in Las Vegas. The car was reregistered in the name of Joe and Marjorie Mason. I wrote down the home address.”

“Oh really? Forget about it Gene. I’m pretty sure that they won’t turn us in. By the way, could I have the address?”

“I’ll write it down.”

“Thanks.”

◦

“Gunny we may have a problem. Joe and Marge are in Las Vegas. Gene seemed to think that if the government caught up with them they might rat us out on our fuel supplies to the Army to avoid prosecution.”

“You don’t say, got the address?”

“What are you going to do?”

“Nothing, just curious.”

“I’ll give it to you, but keep it under your hat.”

“Mums the word.”

◦

“Have you seen Jeb and Mandy?”

“Mandy needed a break from school, Jeb and she ran down to Las Vegas to see a couple of shows. It was just for the weekend.”

“Crap.”

“What’s wrong, Jim?”

“Gene tracked down Joe and Marge, they’re in Las Vegas.”

“Did you tell Jeb?”

“No.”

“Then don’t worry about it. I’m sure that they only went because Mandy needed a break?”

“How is she doing as a teacher?”

“Like she was born to it. I believe that the kids are getting a better education here than they would have gotten in the Reno school system. Did Gene talk to the people about selling our surplus electrical power?”

“All they would allow was credits against future usage. He told them to shove it.”

“What if they try to take it? They could do anything.”

“The Nevada National Guard couldn’t get access to the towers and if they tried, I think we blow them up. We can go about a year on our supply of diesel, especially if we cut back a little. We returned 4 of the Avengers and TOW equipped Hummers to the NNG, but we got back Armament carriers with a Mark 19, a .50 cal and 2 .30 cal machine guns. With the other weapons we have we can protect what is ours.”

“Can we stop all of the NNGs tanks?”

“Don’t really know, but that would take an order from the Governor and I can’t believe he’s that stupid. I’ll talk to Gene about replacing the stingers on two of the Hummer’s with the TOWs we have stored. That will make them M1121s. We can use the M240s on tripods if we have to. We ended up lying and Owen told the Guard we didn’t have any reloads for the 2 M1121s we gave them.”

“You lied?”

“Somehow it’s getting easier; we had lots of practice since WW III. Maybe we could replace the Stingers on the V-100s with TOWs, too and remount the Stingers on the LAV-25s. We could even do it the other way around.”

“What else could you do?”

“Put explosive charges on the towers and control panels and run the wires to the Op Center.”

“Pretty extreme.”

“Extreme explains their attempt at their taking our electricity. They can you know, EO 10997 allows the government to take over all electrical power, gas, petroleum, fuels and minerals. If the feds get involved, that’s probably exactly what would happen.”

“I thought we had them straightened out.”

“Only until they change their minds.”

◦

“Have a nice weekend in Vegas?”

“Saw two shows and Mandy let off a little steam in the casinos.”

“What did you do?”

“A little sightseeing, I’ve never spent much time in Vegas.”

“So you didn’t know that Joe and Marge were holed up in Vegas?”

“Nobody ever tells me anything, I could have looked them up just to say Hi. Why?”

“Just curious.”

Jim wanted to be sure the Jeb hadn’t done anything foolish. He hadn’t, no one would ever find the bodies. They were in good company, buried with several hundred gangsters in the desert around Vegas. Some things were better left unsaid.

◦

“We have company.”

“Who is here?”

“A group of state troopers.”

“Invite them in for coffee and give Gene a call. Tell him to have someone stand by the detonator in the tower and get his behind up here.”

“Come on in fellas, help you?”

“We’re here to discuss your wind turbines.”

“Coffee? I called Gene and he’s on his way.”

“We’ll pass. What the deal with your wind turbine, the utility company spoke with the Governor and he ordered us to get it sorted out.”

“Let’s wait for Gene; he’s the one who spoke with the utility company.”

“Coffee Gene?”

“If it’s fresh. What do you fellas want?”

“There seems to be a dispute over your wind turbines. The utility company spoke to the Governor and he sent us to straighten it out.”

“Come with us.”

“Jim, grab you coffee and let’s give them a close up look at the tower.”

“You see that dynamite on the tower? It’s connected to det cord and the cord runs to somewhere I can’t mention. You try to take over the towers and both the towers and controllers will be blown up.”

“Why would you do something like that?”

“It’s a matter of principle. That electricity is ours. We offered to sell it to the utility, but they declined to pay us a fair rate. Screw ‘em.”

“You guys are part of the Devil’s Brigade aren’t you?”

“That’s right. Maybe we should visit Carson City and explain the facts of living in the US to the Governor. In the meantime we sort of have ourselves a Mexican standoff. If we have to blow the towers, we won’t be any worse off than the city of Reno. Are you sure you don’t want some coffee?”

“We can shut down your operation in Reno.”

“Go ahead. Then you can explain to the people why we’re not allowed to supply them with wood and food. Which branch of the Gestapo do you belong to?”

“What did you do to get the government in New Washington to cave in?”

“We didn’t DO anything. We just parked 8 Abrams tanks, 8 Hummers and 8 LAV-ADs in front of the new Capitol Building. They decided what to do all by themselves.”

“You’re bluffing.”

“Call the bluff, then. Neither Jim nor I care. They can still buy up to 1mW hour of electricity at 10¢ a kW hour. That’s only \$100 an hour for our full production.”

“The Governor said 8¢ an hour.”

“That was then, this is now. The price increases 1¢ per kW hour per day.”

o

I suppose you heard, the *Sheriff of Cochise*, John Bromfield, died. He was 83. Featuring more car chases and fistfights than gun battles, the half-hour series represented something of an Arizona version of California's *Highway Patrol*.

Ray wants to let them in. The Coast Guard say no. The Coast Guard ought to shut up; we can bury them all in a mass grave, that's cheaper than repairing New Orleans. That John Wayne Dude will probably tell Ray to shut up. I don't know what's worse, Ray and Kathy or the levee situation in the California Delta. It will cost almost as much to repair as the levees in Louisiana. Arnold is running again, he must have not gotten any scripts he liked. I wish the new hurricane would hit so we could stop talking about who is to blame for Katrina. Our tax dollars at work, all \$200 billion of them. What we really need is a hurricane on the west coast. Talk about minority problems... You do know that the white folks are the minority in California, right? Sorry, I didn't sleep well after I took 2 Xanax. To top it all off, my bride has pink eye. At least she's not blaming me.

Have you heard about the tunnel they want to build through the San Gabriel Mountains? It only crosses 2 known earthquake faults. Cost is estimated at \$3 billion, which means it will cost \$27 billion. They've been discussing it for about 50 years, I assume they have a committee on it. *In all the towns...* oops did that one, didn't I? They kicked the government's butt but they only went to New Washington. All of the time the problem was in Carson City. They should have swung through on the way back from New Washington. Oh well... now they have to do it again. Unfortunately the people in the other states don't give a red rat's behind about local problems.

They should, remember that California went broke because Enron and some other suppliers jacked the price on fuel? The Enron Executives went to jail and Arnold became Governor. You can spell Arnold right? R-I-N-O. Related by marriage to FT's friend, Teddy. Sorry, that wasn't called for, but it's 7am and I'm tired. Never, ever let your child move back home. If she wants a divorce, it isn't your problem. It made a good Christian out of me. I thank God every Monday morning when they go to school and the Devil gets an earful when they come home at night.

o

"You look familiar."

"I'm the Governor."

"Come to threaten us? Won't work, we'll blow the towers in a heartbeat."

"I came to reason with you."

"What's that mean, you won't attack if we give you our electricity?"

"Well..."

“When’s the next election, Arnold is out of a job?”

“He can teach Kindergarten. Look, you guys have to be reasonable about selling the utility company electricity.”

“We are being reasonable, we only want 13¢ per kW hour.”

“That’s a nickel more than the original negotiation.”

“Not a problem, we blow the towers when it hits 25¢. Have you ever seen our LAV-25s?”

“I was in the Marines.”

“Ours are different, they have Stingers and TOWs.”

“Everyone has fingers and toes.”

“When’s the next election?”

“They were right, you’re being totally unreasonable.”

“Goodbye. Don’t let the door hit...”

“What do you think?”

“We’ll cave in at 20¢. That will give us each \$2,400 a day for 6 months. That will get them through the winter and it will cover our costs for everything.”

o

“Final offer, 1mW an hour for 4,368 hours. The price is 20¢ an hour. Say no and we’ll blow the towers out of spite.”

“But that’s almost a million dollars.”

“Gene, this guy is a regular math whiz. He must not have learned math from a movie. That’s our final offer, take it or leave it.”

“I’ll take it. Say, you fellas have a business in Reno, right?”

“Yep. We also have a 45kw Onan propane fuel gas generator that’s just sitting here unused. We planned to put in a propane tank and supply our own power.”

“Do you have any other unused generators?”

“There is a 15kw diesel generator and an empty 1,500-gallon diesel fuel tank.”

“Are they for sale?”

“\$12,000, delivered, no sales tax.”

“I’ll take it.”

“Do you need fuel?”

“Do you have some?”

“For you, a very special price, \$3.50 a gallon, but only because you’re buying the generator.”

“So altogether...”

“\$17,250, in gold or silver, COD.”

“Here’s the address. When will you turn on the power to the lines?”

“How do you intend to pay?”

“What do you want?”

“Gold or silver, once a week. If you’re late paying we shut it back down. You don’t have to drive here, drop the funds off at the warehouse every Tuesday morning.”

“Ted, I sold your fuel tank. How much did you have in it?”

“\$1,250.”

“I’ll pay you when we get back from Reno.”

◦

“Where did you find that?”

“On a side road, the driver was dead, either a stroke or heart attack.”

“What’s in it?”

“Half and half.”

“Good, put the gas in my tank after you add 4 gallons of PRI-G. Take the fuel to this address and give him 3 quarts of PRI-D and 1,500-gallons of diesel. Take the rest to the Sheriff’s motor pool give them 3¼ gallons of PRI-D and 6,500-gallons. They’ll issue you a voucher for \$16,250. Take the voucher to the cashier and get gold and silver. We’ll see you at the warehouse. Thanks Abel, we’ll cut you in.”

“\$8,400 enough?”

“Sure, thanks. What about the rest of the money?”

“It will go into the kitty. Do you want to go to the Valley tomorrow and pick 16,000-gallons of used oil? Jeb will ride shotgun.”

“Sure.”

“What do we plan to do when the contract with the utility company is up?”

“Cut them to ½ MW per day. That will give us a chance to refill our diesel tanks over the summer and fall. Are you ready to go cut timber? By the way, did Jeb reimburse you for the wood stove you put in the trailers he owns?”

“He did. You didn’t and neither did Ted.”

“Give me a number and I’ll pay you for Ted and me.”

Updated Product List:

- 1½-pound whole wheat bread, Standard sliced
- 1½-pound whole wheat bread, Squaw unsliced
- 5-pound bags of: rolled oats, ground wheat, corn, and oats
- 5-pound bags of brown and white rice
- 1-pound bags of coffee beans, whole
- 1-pound blocks of cheese: mild Cheddar, Mozzarella and Romano
- 5-pound bags of pasta, 20 varieties (shapes)
- 1-quart jars of Spaghetti sauce, supplies limited
- 1-quart jars of canned vegetables
- 10-pound bags of potatoes
- 3-pound bags of onions
- 5-pound bags of: dark red kidney, pinto, paquito, great northern and navy beans
- 1-pint jars of honey
- 1-pint bottles of cough syrup (Licorice flavored alcohol)
- 1ft³ - firewood bundle
- 1-gallon biodiesel \$2.00, \$2.50 and \$3.50 (depending on customer)

The supplier in Colorado would deliver the grain, provided they agreed to supply fuel. (\$2.00/gal, he just added the price to the delivery cost.) It was the same story for the

rice supplier and the coffee roaster. With strict rationing, they were getting by on running 2 of the 8 generators at a time, further reducing their diesel consumption and giving them a net increase of 160 gallons per day. However, on some days they need 3 or 4 generators so it varied from a gain of 160-gallons to a loss of either 80-gallons or 320-gallons per day. During the period from 10pm to 6am, only a single generator ran, further cutting their consumption, but it sort of averaged out and if there was enough juice in the batteries, no generators ran. Gene and Jim were each pocketing 2 Eagles a day from the utility company.

◦

According to Hurricane Track Rita is supposed to hit near Galveston on Saturday, 9/24/05, as a Category 3 storm. On the evening of 9/7/1900, high winds arose, heralding the arrival of a hurricane that struck Galveston Island in the early morning of September 8 and lasted until the next day. Wind speeds reached up to 135 mph (an estimate, since the anemometer was blown off of the US Weather Bureau building). The island's infrastructure was devastated, and an estimated 6,000 to 12,000 people were killed, making the hurricane the deadliest natural disaster ever to strike the United States. Don't look up hurricanes on Wiki, try Galveston, Texas instead. Camille, Andrew and Katrina are the big hurricane news, they had names. I'll bet you can't find a generator anywhere in the Houston area. Galveston is located at 29°16'52" North, 94°49'33" West (29.281137, -94.825945). The hurricane is forecast to strike at 29.0N, 95.0W the east side winds should hit Galveston.

(After I wrote that, I watched TV for a while. The city of Galveston activated their EMA today and are preparing for a Cat 4 storm. General Honoré's son arrived home from Iraq, a very proud papa.)

◦

Meanwhile, back on the farms, Jim had drawer 3 refilled and had started to refill drawer 4. The guy from the utility company was back complaining that he couldn't find any oil filters for the generator. Jim helped him out and sold him 12 at \$10 each. The guy was a total idiot, he'd paid too much for everything and seemed happy to have them. Perhaps it was because there wasn't enough electricity to serve the population of Reno and only the hospitals and the government had fuel. (Sounds like California in the fall of 2005.) The electricity went to the hospitals first and the government second, everyone else had to make do. Occasionally the wind would fall off and they'd have to feed electricity to Reno from their generators. It got very complicated synchronizing several separate power sources, but they had a synchronizer for the wind turbines and it was hooked into the generator controllers.

A person might wonder how the Sheriff and City of Reno found fuel for their gas powered squad cars.

They had a choice:

Chevrolet Silverado 2500HD – Duramax Turbo Diesel 6600 V8
Chevrolet Silverado 3500 – Duramax Turbo Diesel 6600 V8
Dodge Ram 2500 – 5.9-Liter I-6 High-Output Cummins Turbo Diesel
Dodge Ram 3500 – 5.9-Liter I-6 High-Output Cummins Turbo Diesel
Ford F-250 XL, XLT, Lariat – 6 Liter PowerStroke Turbo Diesel V-8
Ford F-350 XL, XLT, Lariat – 6 Liter PowerStroke Turbo Diesel V-8
GMC Sierra 2500 HD - 6.6L Turbo Diesel V8
GMC Sierra 3500 – 6.6L Turbo Diesel V8
Hummer H1 - 6.5 Liter V8 Turbo-charged Diesel
Hummer H1 Alpha – 6.6-liter Duramax turbo diesel engine
Jeep Liberty CRD – 2.8-liter four-cylinder (diesel)
Mercedes-Benz E320 CDI – 3,222-CC turbocharged 24-valve inline-6
Mercedes-Benz C-Class diesel sedan – V-6 diesel engine
Mercedes-Benz ML350 – 3.7-liter V-6
Mercedes-Benz ML500 – V-8 diesel engine

There were also the Volkswagen's but can you see a cop driving a Beetle, Golf, Jetta or Passat? I also eliminated other German vehicles (they lost the war, remember) and all vans.

The Washoe County Sheriff Deputies mostly drove Blazers or Broncos and the Reno PD Supervisors, jeeps. There is only one real squad car these days, the Crown Victoria. Now the Sheriff was driving a Hummer H1 Alpha and the Deputies drove Club Cab Dodge Ram 3500s. The Reno PD settled for Mercedes-Benz E320 for the Officers and Mercedes-Benz C-Class diesel sedans for the Supervisors. The Chief got a Mercedes-Benz ML500, RHIP.

“What do you mean pull over for the Mercedes, cops don't drive Mercedes?”

The second charge was usually, Failure to Yield. Others, who had to have vehicles, like ambulance services, found diesel vehicles too. Guess where that load of gas and diesel fuel was going? Fuel was in short supply and most governmental entities had several suppliers. As it turned out, many supplied biodiesel.

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Some people don't believe that people are faced with multiple disasters. They must have slept through the 2004 and the 2005 hurricane season. 2004 was bad and 2005 worse. Every time you got the debris cleaned up, here came another. Katrina had cost more than the total costs of its predecessors. And before they cleaned up New Orleans, here came Rita. Maybe Galveston was safe, but it was a question of perspective. Rita made landfall down the coast from Galveston, but Galveston was nearly beat to death by the winds. The storm surge was smaller too, Galveston got lucky. At least Rita got Ray Nagin to think and he postponed the repopulation of New Orleans. I'd better stop living in the past.

“How are we doing on fuel?”

“Gas, LP or diesel?”

“Take your pick, tell about them all.”

“Gas: we used about 100 gallons on the chainsaws. Diesel: It’s hard to say, I didn’t stick the tanks, but I’d guess that we’re only down about 2,500-gallons each. Propane: We’re about 86% full. Wood: About 320 cords in logs and just under 3,000 bundles of fire-wood. I’m guessing that we’ll use ~ 200-cords of wood ourselves, I can’t really say, because this is the first season with so many wood stoves. I’m guessing ~ 5 cords of wood per family.”

“All of the crops are in, what is the story on grain shipments.”

“He said he’d deliver for as long as the roads are open and the same thing goes for the coffee roaster and the rice supplier, provided we keep them in fuel.”

“I’m going out and cultivate. Did you do your beans yet or are they waiting too?”

“Slave driver. Ok, Jim, I’ll cultivate too. By the way, I had my friend check on Joe and Marge and they up and disappeared.”

“When was that?”

“I can only give you a time frame, around the time that Jeb and Mandy went to Vegas or possibly shortly thereafter.”

“Disappeared? Went missing or what?”

“Kind of like Jenna, one minute they were there and the following week, no one could find them.”

“Strange. Got to go, 30 acres to finish before sundown.”

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“Jeb did you talk to Joe and Marge when you went to Vegas?”

“Nope, why?”

“Just curious. They went missing, you know.”

“Got me, when did they go missing?”

“About the time Mandy and you went to Vegas.”

“I don’t know what to say. I didn’t talk to either one of them.”

“Swear?”

“Absolutely. Say, what are you saying? Do you think I had something to do with their disappearance?”

“I had to ask.”

“Like I said little brother, I didn’t talk to either one of them when Mandy and I went to Vegas and that’s gospel.”

On the other hand, a strange sound had been heard near their house that evening and it sounded like ‘Pfutt, Pfutt’. Jeb was telling the truth, he hadn’t talked to either Joe or Marge. Some people simply can’t keep a secret. And the minute you tell someone a secret, it stops being a secret.

◦

Jim let it go; he had a lot on his mind. The utility company practically insisted that they had to have 1mW. They were told, 500kW or nothing. They could have 1mW again in November for another 6 months. The guy with the utility company bought another 1,500-gallons of diesel at \$4 per gallon. The third winter was ice cold and dry, allowing every opportunity to harvest timber. Not that they needed to, but some people can never have enough money.

Unless a hurricane hits Nevada, the folks on the farms will do just fine. They have enough money to buy anything they need, thanks to 5 years of hard work and a ready market for what they had. They’re still slaving away, saving money to buy the kids a college. By the time Jimmy, Becky and Johnny are old enough to attend college, Harvard will probably cost \$500,000 for a 4-year education. I’m old and I remember paying 18¢ a gallon for gas. After WWII, my dad sold gas at a Sinclair station at 7 gallons for a dollar when it was on sale. I still remember paying 6-7 bucks for a carton of smokes. In those days, if you made \$75/week, you were well off.

The families were prepared and when that wasn’t enough, they improvised, adapted and overcame. I still remember the first time I fell in love, I was about 10 years old and she was 20.

A song of love is a sad song, Hi-Lili, Hi-Lili, Hi-Lo
A song of love is a song of woe
Don't ask me how I know
A song of love is a sad song
For I have loved and it's so

I sit at the window and watch the rain, Hi-Lili, Hi-Lili, Hi-Lo
Tomorrow I'll probably love again, Hi-Lili, Hi-Lili, Hi-Lo.

A song of love is a sad song, Hi-Lili, Hi-Lili, Hi-Lo
A song of love is a song of woe
Don't ask me how I know
A song of love is a sad song
For I have loved and it's so
I sit at the window and watch the rain, Hi-Lili, Hi-Lili, Hi-Lo
Tomorrow I'll probably love again, Hi-Lili----Hi-Lili----Hi-Lo.

Leslie Claire Margaret Caron

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